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STATISTICS  
OF THE  
STATE OF OREGON;

CONTAINING

A DESCRIPTION OF ITS AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT,

AND

NATURAL AND INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES.

TOGETHER WITH

THE PHYSICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL, GEOLOGICAL AND MINERAL  
STATISTICS OF THE STATE.

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Compiled and Published by order of the State Agricultural Society,

BY A. J. DUFUR,

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE AND EX-PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

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SALEM, OREGON:

PRINTED AT THE "WILLAMETTE FARMER" OFFICE.

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ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

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## PREFACE.

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THE compilation and statistics herewith presented will explain themselves, and need no introduction. They have been prepared simply to meet an urgent demand. As an answer to constant inquiries from abroad concerning the climate and resources of Oregon, this work may be considered, as far as it goes, authentic. It will also furnish much needed information among our own people. But nothing short of an actual and thorough observation can give any idea of the vast agricultural and manufacturing resources—the wealth of forest, river and field; the almost untouched quarries and mines of this new State. We invite examination on the part of immigrants and of our own citizens. We will only add that the statements herein furnished are the statements of practical men, engaged, as may be, in Engineering, Agriculture, or business connected with the interests of the country. The names of these are given in proper place. The whole work is under the care of the State Agricultural Society, and compiled by their committee appointed for that purpose.



# STATISTICS OF OREGON.

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## No. 1.

### CLATSOP COUNTY.

THIS county is located in the northwest part of this State, its entire western border being washed by the Pacific Ocean, while its northern boundary is the Columbia river, making it easy of access by water, and well adapted to trade and commerce.

Astoria, the shiretown of this county, is located on the Columbia river, about twelve miles from its mouth; and is the great business point in this county, and a place where the immigrant or settler can obtain all kinds of supplies necessary for an outfit with which to commence life in a new country. Astoria has a fine harbor, capable of accommodating ocean steamers of the largest size, and sailing vessels of the heaviest tonnage from any part of the world.

The improvements made by Government at Point Adams and Cape Disappointment, near the mouth of the Columbia river, for lighthouse, forts, etc., have already amounted to several hundred thousand dollars, and the demand for supplies on Government works in this vicinity, together with the necessary outfit of fresh provisions for sailing vessels, ocean steamers, etc., make a ready market for all kinds of farm productions at remunerative prices.

There are also valuable and extensive salmon fisheries in this vicinity, employing a capital of two or three hundred thousand dollars, and increasing in importance every year;

in fact, this branch of industry, when fully developed, bids fair to richly reward any one who may invest capital in the business, and will doubtless be a resource of great wealth to this State.

As you approach this part of the State by water, the face of the country has a rough and forbidding appearance. A range of high hills and bluffs along the river come almost down to the water's edge in many places, while lofty peaks of the Coast Range Mountains greet the eye of the weary immigrant from an ocean view.

Pursuing the most frequent route of travel, the immigrant too often passes lovely and fertile valleys, capable of making homes for thousands of the weary and landless operatives in the over-crowded cities and manufacturing towns of the older States, and after a hasty search of a few weeks, or at longest of a few months, returns home discouraged and disheartened, abandons all his former hopes of independence and a happy home of his own—which, in fact, were almost within his grasp, and required only a few hours' walk and a few years' work, in some of the unoccupied valleys of Oregon, to be realized—and contents himself to labor the remainder of his days for a bare subsistence, to add to the already overflowing coffers of land monopoly and moneyed aristocracy of the old world.

The soil of this county along the creek and river bottoms, and through the swales and valleys, is a rich alluvial deposit, and well adapted to the growth of grass, grain and vegetables of all kinds.

Apples, pears, quinces, plums, cherries, grapes, and the different varieties of small fruits, do extraordinarily well where cultivated, and also the peach, when planted in localities sheltered from the sea breeze.

The climate is mild and healthy, the thermometer very seldom rising above seventy-five degrees in summer, or falling

below fifteen degrees Fahrenheit in winter. A delightful sea breeze in summer makes this county the resort of the invalid in search of health from many parts of the State, fever and ague being unknown in this locality.

The water is pure and soft, being supplied in abundance from creeks, springs and brooks, from the adjoining hills and mountains. A recent survey of the interior of this county, made by Gen. Joel Palmer, shows that there are thousands of acres of excellent land in the valley of the Nehalem river and along its tributaries; also along the branches of Young's river and other smaller streams emptying into Young's bay. Extensive tracts of this land are still unoccupied, not having yet been claimed or even surveyed, and only waits the magic touch of industry to convert its rich soil into fruitful fields and happy homes.

The timber in this county is a mine of wealth to the enterprising lumberman, being composed of the different varieties of fir, cedar, spruce, hemlock, ash, maple, and alder; and, when converted into the different kinds of lumber, and hauled or floated to tide water, on Young's river or bay, can be shipped in sailing vessels to any part of the world.

A good system of common school education is established in this county, together with churches for religious worship, wherever settlements of any importance have been made. In fact, this county holds out good inducements to the industrious, intelligent, persevering, laboring man in whatever branch of industry he may wish to engage, combining a mild and healthful climate, with fertile valleys, pure water, broad and extensive tracts of timber of the most useful kinds for lumbering purposes, numerous excellent water-powers, with advantages for commercial intercourse with the whole world.

There are three or four lumber<sup>m</sup> mills, with a combined capital of two or three hundred thousand dollars, doing a

profitable and flourishing business, manufacturing and exporting lumber to supply the increasing demand of foreign markets.

Coal and iron ore are known to exist in this region, but the mines have not yet been developed. The average price of farm land, partly improved, is from two to five dollars per acre, while government land of good quality, and in sufficient quantities for flourishing settlements, can still be obtained.

This county has an area of 1,280,000 acres, with a population of about 1500, and an assessed property valuation of \$280,000, and about 1000 acres of land under cultivation.

## No. 2.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY.

THE following information relative to the resources of Columbia county, has been furnished the Committee by H. J. Stevenson, Esq., a practical surveyor and civil engineer, together with an outline map of the most important localities in Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Washington, Clackamas, Multnomah, Clatsop, Columbia, Wasco and Umatilla counties, their connection with the Pacific ocean by the waters of the Willamette and Columbia rivers; also, the feasibility of uniting by railroad the most prominent places in these counties with Puget Sound:

With a water line on the Columbia river, the entire length of its northern boundary, a safe river channel for navigation and harbors, a place of accommodating ocean steamers and sailing vessels of the largest size, this county is not only of importance to the farmer for its fertile soil, and adaptation to stock raising and dairying; to the lumber-man, mechanic

and manufacturer, for its extensive forests of valuable timber, numerous mill sites and water-power; to the manufacturer of iron, for its rich beds of coal and iron ore; though now but thinly settled, is destined to become of importance at no distant period, in a commercial point of view.

Improved farming land of the best quality, in favorable localities, can be obtained at from eight to ten dollars per acre, with unimproved at four. There are about two hundred and twenty thousand (220,000) acres of unimproved upland, principally covered with a heavy growth of excellent timber, mostly yellow fir. Also about eighty thousand (80,000) acres of bottom land along the Willamette and Columbia rivers, a large portion of which is subject to periodical overflow, from the first of June to the middle of July. But during the rest of the year, it is covered with a luxuriant growth of very nutritious grass, yielding from two to three tons of hay to the acre, furnishing an almost inexhaustible supply of pasturage for stock raising and dairy purposes. The higher portion of this bottom land, known as hardhack ridges, seldom overflows, being an alluvial deposit of vegetable mould: is of almost inexhaustible fertility, and when cultivated produces all kinds of grain in perfection, and appears to be especially adapted to the cultivation of roots and garden vegetables.

Dairy productions always command a ready sale in this locality, at remunerative prices. The experienced dairyman and stock grower, with ordinary economy and industry, can in a few years place himself in independent circumstances, with a comfortable home.

Apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, quinces, grapes, and the different varieties of small fruits, do well when planted in favorable localities; and ornamental shrubbery, with beautiful flower gardens, can be successfully cultivated, so as to suit the most fastidious taste.



Good government land can be obtained within a mile of navigable water, at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, currency; also, State and school land at two dollars. The principal kinds of timber are fir, cedar, cottonwood, ash, oak, maple, alder, willow, given in the order in which they predominate.

Pure water is abundant for stock and domestic purposes. There are also about forty natural mill sites in this county, situated in the vicinity of the navigable waters of the Columbia and Willamette rivers.

A tract of land known to be rich in iron ore exists in the vicinity of St. Helen. A portion of these iron lands are owned by capitalists, who contemplate erecting smelting works thereon as soon as practicable.

An extensive coal vein has also been discovered in the vicinity of St. Helen.

Valuable salt springs exist in the southern part of this county, from one of which a superior article of salt is being manufactured. There are six saw and one grist mill in this county. The steam mill at St. Helen is one of the finest in the State, being capable of cutting 40,000 feet of lumber per day.

There are excellent inducements in this county for mechanics who have a small amount of capital to commence business with, and a limited number of tradesmen of all kinds would find steady employment.

Several good schools are established in this county, with one church (Methodist) at St. Helen.

All kinds of produce sell at remunerative prices, St. Helen being a good market, with a safe harbor, where consignments can be made to Portland, Victoria, San Francisco, or any other market on the coast.

The climate is mild and temperate, without extreme cold in winter, or excessive heat in summer. Snow seldom falls



to remain on the ground more than two or three days at a time.

A few cases of ague occur periodically in the southern part of the county, but the country is generally healthy, and fever and ague is not prevalent in any part of the State.

The inducements held out to professional men are not very flattering in this locality, although good school teachers are well patronized; but the great secret of success in a new place like this, is money judiciously invested, backed by muscle, vigorously applied, to develop a country naturally rich in agricultural, mechanical and mineral resources.

Grain and seeds, of the different varieties, can be obtained by the immigrant in almost any of the settlements in this county, at a reasonable rate.

Agricultural implements, mechanics' tools, provisions, groceries, clothing, hardware, books, stationery, and, in fact, everything necessary to commence life with comfortably in a new country, can be as readily obtained in this locality, and at almost as cheap a price, as in the older States.

The population of this county is estimated at about 700, with an assessed property valuation of \$168,000; 1100 acres under improvement, and covers an area of about 300,000 acres.

### No. 3.

## TILLAMOOK COUNTY.

This county, lying immediately south of Clatsop county, to which it is attached for judicial purposes, has a sea coast extending from Tillamook Head, on the north, to Cape Fairweather, in the south, a distance of about seventy miles.

With a good harbor at the mouth of the Tillamook river,

in the northern part of the county, well adapted to steamers and sailing vessels of light draught, with other inlets farther south on the coast of less importance, with pure water, small fertile valleys, and a mild, healthy climate, this county holds out inducements not to be overlooked by the industrious, persevering immigrant seeking a home on the Pacific coast. The following information, furnished the Commercial by Wm. H. Hall, Esq., who resided a number of years in this county, may be of use to the stranger looking for a home:

The county is accessible by water through its bays and inlets; also, by pack trail from Astoria, and another from Yamhill county, leading to Tillamook Bay.

The interval lands along the creeks and rivers are not surpassed for productiveness on this coast, being a vegetable mould of alluvial deposit. These lands when properly cultivated, produce the different varieties of vegetables, grain and grass in abundance; while the prairies and uplands are well adapted to general farming, yielding fruit and all kinds of crops generally cultivated by the farmer, excepting corn.

Farming lands, partly improved, can be obtained at from three to five dollars per acre, while other good land not so eligibly situated can be had at Government price. There is about fifty thousand acres of tide land, covered with very nutritious grass, especially adapted to dairying—good butter and cheese always commanding paying prices in the different market on the coast. This branch of industry can be followed on these lands with marked success.

Timber for fencing and building purposes is plenty and easily obtained, being composed of spruce, hemlock, fir, cedar, maple and alder, of which spruce predominates.

Numerous springs and brooks supply an abundance of pure cold water for stock and domestic use: while the larger creeks, running westward from the Coast range mountains,

furnish numerous mill sites and water-power for all mechanical purposes.

The spruce timber in this part of the country grows to an enormous size, being in many instances from five to eight feet in diameter, and from one to two hundred feet high before reaching a limb, furnishing an excellent material for staves, shingles, clapboards, flooring, masts, spars, knees, and plank. An almost inexhaustible supply of hemlock bark could be obtained here for tanning leather.

The climate and temperature in summer, from a cool sea breeze, renders the air delightful and healthy. In winter, the thermometer seldom indicates a temperature below twenty degrees Fahrenheit. Bilious fevers and ague seldom, if ever known.

This county being thinly settled, there are no great inducements to professional men and teachers, but the mechanic or manufacturer, with a small capital, by perseverance and industry, can in a few years build up a fortune from his own toil.

The conveniences for immigrants to obtain supplies of provisions, household furniture, merchandise, agricultural implements, mechanics' tools, etc., are not as good as in many other parts of the State, articles of this kind being obtained from Portland by means of sailing vessels; but nature has placed within the reach of industry, the facilities for overcoming most of these inconveniences by furnishing the raw material from which to produce or manufacture most all the necessities of life.

The privileges for common schools and meetings for religious worship, are as good as could be reasonably expected in a new locality like this, schools being established in all the settlements where the number of scholars demand one, and the Methodist and Christian denominations having a number of local and itinerant preachers in the different valleys in this vicinity.

There are trails where stock of all kind can be driven from this valley to Portland or Astoria. Other marketing is done by means of sailing vessels coming into the bays.

There are two lumber mills and two flour mills in this county, but the numerous excellent water-powers, with the abundance of timber, would make lumbering on an extensive scale a profitable business in this locality.

The mineral resources of this county have not been developed, but coal, iron, and slate are known to exist in different localities.

The different kinds of fish are abundant in all the inlets and bays, while swarms of speckled trout abound in mountain streams and furnish rich pastime for the sportsman.

Elk, deer, bear, and the smaller varieties of game, are abundant in many parts of the county, and good oyster beds exist along the coast.

Tillamook county extends over an area of 1,280,000 acres, with only about 500 inhabitants, and an assessed property valuation of \$59,330. Amount of land under cultivation, not ascertained.

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#### No. 4.

### WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Washington county is situated in the northwest corner of the great Willamette valley, and is one of the best grain growing counties of the State, watered by the Tualitin river and its tributaries, with beautiful prairies of unsurpassed fertility, timber and wood land sufficient to more than supply the home demand, and within an easy day's drive of navigable water, make it among the most desirable locations for a home in the State.

In answers to inquiries made by the Committee, asking information relative to the resources of Oregon, the following communication has been received from John T. Scott, Esq., which, for its clear and comprehensive statement of facts, the Committee has thought best to insert entire :

FOREST GROVE, WASHINGTON COUNTY, {  
September 25th, 1868. }

*Hon. A. J. Dufur, Chairman of the Oregon Agricultural Society :*

DEAR SIR—In compliance with the foregoing circular, I will briefly answer the several inquiries in their order.

First—The character of public buildings: We have located in our county the Pacific University. The buildings consist of three large and commodious framed structures, sufficient to accommdate the present wants of the community. And I may here remark, that this Institute is well patronized, and the *corps* of teachers is not excelled in the State.

Second—The average price of farming land, improved and unimproved: Improved farms can be obtained from ten to twenty dollars per acre, according to the amount of improvements; unimproved, at from three to four dollars.

Third—The amount of tax on the dollar in this county is fourteen mills.

Fourth—The general nature of the soil, etc.: Our country contains some of the best farming lands in the State. The Tualitin Plains are well adapted to vegetables, and fruit of all kinds.

Fifth—The different kinds of timber and adaptation to building, lumber, fence, etc.: We have all the different varieties that are to be found throughout our State, conveniently located for farming and lumbering purposes. Our water-power is abundant and ample.

Sixth—Quality and convenience of water for stock and domestic purposes: Wells are mostly used for families:

water soft, pure and easily obtained; numerous creeks and springs abound.

Seventh—Climate, health, etc.: We are situated in the northwest corner of the Willamette valley; our climate is mild and of an even temperature; the general health of the country is good.

Eighth—Inducements held out to mechanics, professional men and tradesmen: The various mechanical professions thrive well here, although there is not a sufficient supply for the demand; in fact, we want more population to develop our vast resources. We could welcome ten thousand settlers to our county, and yet there would be room for more.

Ninth—The facilities for immigrants to obtain supplies of all kinds: We have a large surplus grain crop, and seeds of all kinds are cheap and abundant among us, and easily obtained. Agricultural and mechanics' tools can be had as cheap and of as good a pattern as in many of the older States.

Tenth—Opportunities for schooling and meetings of religious worship: Pacific University and Tualatin Academy afford all the advantages in this immediate neighborhood that could be desired for the education of our children and youth. This school is of the highest order. There are three church edifices in our village—Congregational, Baptist, Methodist.

Eleventh—Mills and manufacturing resources: We have several grist and saw-mills in our county, but there is room and a demand for more.

Twelfth—Can Government land be obtained in your county? All our mountain lands are vacant, but will soon be monopolized by the Oregon Central Railroad (west-side). There are numerous tracts of mountain land that would make desirable homes.



With much respect, I submit the foregoing to your Society for the general information of the public.

JOHN T. SCOTT.

Washington county has an area of about 350,000 acres ; is estimated to have nearly 25,000 acres under cultivation ; a population of 4,500 inhabitants, and an assessed property valuation of \$898,900.

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No. 5.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY.

This county is situated on the navigable waters of the lower Willamette river, and probably holds out greater inducements to the capitalist who wishes to make successful investment in the various manufacturing enterprises or to the industrious mechanic with limited means, than any other locality of equal size on the Pacific coast, or even in the United States.

The following information relative to the present resources and natural advantages of this county, was furnished the Committee by D. C. Ireland, Esq., editor of the Oregon City Enterprise, a gentleman who has taken great pains to obtain and circulate valuable information through the columns of his paper, relative to the mineral, mechanical, and agricultural wealth of this State.

First—There are no public buildings in Clackamas county worthy of note, if we except the Seminary at Oregon City. The County Jail is a miserable structure, but we have very little use for a jail in this region.

Second—The average price of farming land, improved and unimproved, is from three to five dollars' per acre.

Wild land is abundant at from one dollar and twenty-five cents to two dollars per acre.

Third—The assessed value of property in Clackamas county, and the tax levied, is as follows, for the four years past :

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Valuation.</i>	<i>Mills Tax.</i>
1864.....	\$1,238,877.....	5
1865.....	1,605,394.....	7½
1866.....	1,624,756.....	5
1867.....	1,648,876.....	9½

The last levy was for extraordinary expenses in purchasing bridges, etc., by which all of our bridges were made free from toll. The figures under the head of valuation, show a healthy increase in the development of the resources of the county after the damage by floods of the winter of 1861-62.

Fourth—The general nature of the soil for farming purposes is good. Grain, vegetables, and the various kinds of fruit grow in abundance here, even on our poorest lands. Stock raising and dairying could be gone into at a small expense. There is no better country for timothy grass than this; its growth on our highest hills is luxuriant, and it serves to kill out fern.

Fifth—We have all the varieties of timber common to Oregon, in Clackamas county. Oak and ash, suitable for wagon timber and the wood-work of agricultural implements, is said to be more abundant and of better quality in this than in any other county, and has been worked out by parties in years past with profit to themselves, and the opportunity still remains. The amount of material for building, fencing, etc., is inexhaustible in this county, and a general lumbering business is now being carried on by ten or a dozen companies, with available space for a hundred more.

Sixth—The quality of water for family use in Clackamas county cannot be excelled—pure living springs and mountain streams course through every section. The amount of



water available for power, is far in excess of any other single county in the world, perhaps.

The falls of the Willamette, at this city, provide man with more than one million horse-power. The factories of Lowell and Lawrence, were they here, would consume but a portion of the water adapted by nature to milling and mechanical purposes in this town. Oswego can be made to furnish one-quarter of that amount, while Milwaukie has significant value in this respect, and the Clackamas, Molalla, Butte creek, Mill creek, Tualitin, and many other streams which we might mention, furnish valuable locations for mill sites and water power.

Seventh—The temperature of this locality is even. Excessive heat and excessive cold is very rare. The general health of the country is good. Billious affections are but little known among our people.

Eighth—We can offer better inducements to mechanics and tradesmen, who can bring capital with them, than other counties of the State generally. We could do better by them had our citizens capital themselves to develop our resources. Professional men and teachers we have but little use for at present. Such places are now ably filled. We want blood, and muscle, and money.

Ninth—Immigrants can obtain anything in this county they desire, at reasonable cost.

Tenth—Opportunities for schooling and meetings for religious worship are good in Clackamas county. In this city alone there are five churches—Methodist, Episcopal, Catholic, Congregational, and Baptist. We have also in this city three private select schools, and one excellent public school capable of teaching the higher branches.

Eleventh—The facilities for marketing and means of transportation in this county are equal to any on the Pacific coast. This is a community of consumers, chiefly operatives and

laborers. The same may be said of Oswego, where miners, choppers, teamsters, coal-burners, furnacemen, etc., form the bulk of population. We have three steamers running daily (Sundays excepted) between Oregon City and Portland, to which will soon be railroad communication connecting us with the present sea-port of Oregon, only ten miles distant.

Twelfth—We have two woolen factories in Clackamas county. The leading one, located in Oregon City, is about 190 by 60 feet, four stories, built of stone and brick, and contains twelve sets of the latest improved machinery. The Oswego iron smelting works, were erected in 1867, at a cost of about \$100,000. There are several lumbering mills in the county. The celebrated Imperial flouring mills are located at Oregon City, and the famous Standard flour is made at Milwaukie. The only iron made on the coast, is made at Oswego; it is equal to the best Scotch pig, and is sought for by California foundrymen. We have a large tannery at Milwaukie, which turns out leather that sells in San Francisco along side the best Santa Cruz. We have a paper mill doing a flourishing business. We have gold and silver quartz mines in this county of value. We have coal and lime, and copper has recently been discovered in considerable quantities. The Oswego Milling Company export lumber, and all other mills manufacture for domestic uses. At this city salmon fishing is carried on to considerable extent. Seven nets have been run this season.

Thirteenth—There is Government land in this county available for settlement, and we are told that much of it would be of value for agricultural purposes. Mechanical or lumbering pursuits cannot be gone amiss of. The Government Land Office is located at Oregon City, at which Mr. Owen Wade officiates as Register; and Mr. Henry Warren, Receiver.

## No. 6.

## MARION COUNTY.

THIS county has an area of about one million nine hundred thousand acres, with its entire western boundary resting on the navigable waters of the Willamette river. Excellent soil, commercial advantages, and central locations combined, render it second to none, and one of the most prosperous counties in the State.

Considerable diversity of soil exists in this county, the northwestern portion consisting of an almost entirely level plain of prairie land about twenty miles in length, and fifteen miles in width, intersected with belts of timber conveniently located, and well adapted to farming, building and general farming purposes. The bottom lands of the Willamette, in the west, and of the Santiam, in the southern portion of this county, are rich alluvial deposits. In fact, the before mentioned plains or prairie lands may be considered an alluvial deposit, and are preeminently adapted to the raising of wheat, oats and all the different varieties of small grain. Good Indian corn can be raised with proper care along the river bottoms, but the climate of Oregon is not favorable to the successful cultivation of this crop, except in particular localities.

The south and eastern portions of the county is hilly, and extremely mountainous. The soil of those hills are of a peculiar red color, and much impregnated with iron, in the form of black sand, like that mixed with the placer gold in California. These red lands and hills are well adapted to a system of mixed husbandry, general farming and stock raising. The wheat produced on these lands is of a superior quality to that raised on the low land; and although not so easily obtained, still this land may be made to yield

forty bushels of superior wheat to the acre, by a judicious system of cultivation. Fruit and vegetables can be produced abundantly on both kinds of soil, but orchards are more healthy and durable on the hills. The kinds of fruit succeeding best are the apple, pear and plum. Peaches, cherries and grapes are not generally cultivated, as the two former are subject to disease in the tree (and manner of cultivation), and the value of the latter is not generally understood.

The different varieties of timber in this county are the red, yellow, white and black fir, larch, hemlock, yellow and white pine, yellow cedar, oak, ash, maple, alder, aspin, cottonwood, yew and yellow wood (a species of cherry).

The various kinds of pine and cedar is the timber mostly used for fencing and building purposes. The oak and ash are used for the manufacture of wagons and agricultural implements, and for fuel. The maple and alder could be manufactured into beautiful furniture. But the high price of labor is the chief obstacle to converting these valuable timbers to their various uses. Natural and other facilities are excellent.

Water for domestic purposes in this county is generally good and abundant, being supplied by pure springs and brooks in the hills and uplands, and wells of a moderate depth on the prairies. The means of conveying water to mechanical uses in this county is abundant. No freshets occur in the spring or summer.

The climate is mild and uniform from five degrees below to one hundred degrees above zero mark, the extremes of heat and cold are seldom reached. A few cases of ague and fever occur annually at different points along the Willamette, but such diseases are not common through the county.

In establishing schools and seminaries of learning, Marion is in advance of any other county in the State, having fifty-

five school districts, fifty-two school houses, fifty-three school teachers, and three academies and one university.

Churches for religious worship are scattered all over the county, and Salem can boast of more church edifices, in proportion to its number of inhabitants, than any other town on the Pacific coast. In fact, the stranger or immigrant who wishes to make Marion his future home, will find as good society, and as much refinement and good taste existing among the people, as in any location in the older States.

The facilities for marketing, manufacturing and converting all kinds of produce into cash, at remunerative prices, are equal to almost any other location on this coast. The navigable waters of the Willamette, the entire length of the county, furnish the means of shipping to Portland, by river steamer, where productions of all kinds find ready sale at the highest market prices; or, where cash is advanced on consignments and produce, can be shipped to any foreign market desired. Besides these advantages, the various manufacturing companies in this county furnish a home market for the different kinds of staple productions almost at the farmer's own door. The woolen mills at Salem manufacture from twenty-five to thirty-five thousand pounds of wool per month into blankets, flannels and cassimeres, employing about one hundred workmen, at an expense of between seven and eight thousand dollars monthly for labor alone, and furnish a ready market for the farmers' wool.

The excellent flouring mills in this county, among which we notice those located at Salem, produce an article of flour commanding the highest price in the Eastern markets, and equalled only by the flour made by other mills manufacturing Oregon wheat, help to furnish a ready market for this great staple of Oregon.

The Pioneer Oil Mill furnishes a ready market for flax



seed, and has introduced a branch of industry profitable to the farmer, and highly creditable to its proprietors.

The extensive packing and curing house of Thomas Cross, Esq., where the celebrated ham, known as Cross' Sugar-cured, is manufactured, and which commands the highest price in all the California markets, together with dried, pickled and corned meats, cured at the same establishment by the enterprising proprietor, and justly celebrated for their superior qualities, furnishes not only a ready market for the beef and pork of this county, but procures large supplies from many other portions of the State.

The manufacturing establishments of this county are, fifteen saw-mills, ten flour-mills, one woolen-mill, two wool-carding machines, one oil mill, two tanneries, breweries, three machine shops, one foundry, three sash and door factories, and three cabinet shops. This estimate does not comprise blacksmiths, carpenters, and the various other small mechanics employed in general jobbing in the county.

The average price of farming land in this county, as estimated by Hon. John Minto, of Salem, an old settler and practical farmer, is from two to twelve dollars an acre. G. W. Hunt, of Sublimity, estimates it at from four to eight dollars. But as the value of real estate is gradually advancing in this county, perhaps from three to fifteen dollars an acre would approximate nearer to the actual price. There is quite a large amount of unsold public school land in this county; also, good land in the southern part, valuable for its timber and mineral wealth. Some of it is said to have a soil well adapted to grain and grass-growing when cleared.

It is estimated that not more than one-eighth of this county has ever been disturbed by the plow, while seven-eighths is fitted for occupancy by nature.

The mineral resources of this county consist of silver, gold, iron and coal; also limestone, composed of marine shell.

The fertility of the soil, the ease with which grain is raised, and the profits derived from farming, together with the high price of labor, have prevented the development of the mineral wealth of this county, and many highly remunerative branches of industry are yet untouched. In fact, the natural resources of this county have as yet been scarcely touched upon.

Salem, the shiretown of Marion county and capital of the State, is situated on the east bank of the Willamette river, about fifty miles south from the city of Portland, and is the second city in size in the State. The immigrant or stranger sojourning in Salem for a few days will scarcely fail to be favorably impressed with the beautiful scenery and rural loveliness of this flourishing inland town. The generous scale on which this city was first laid out, with unusually broad streets and large blocks, with the numerous neat little churches, erected by the various religious denominations, justly entitle it to its name, "The city of churches and magnificent distances."

Many of the most prominent business firms and manufacturing establishments located here have already been noticed. The numerous substantial brick blocks and elegant private residences erected in this city the past season, is sufficient evidence of its financial prosperity, and the natural resources of wealth in the country with which it is surrounded. There are a number of excellent schools in this town, both public and private. The Willamette University, one of the oldest and best schools on the coast, is located here, and has an elegant brick College building, with a Medical Department attached. And it is not only an ornament to the city, but will ever be a lasting honor to its founders.

Marion county has a population of about ten thousand inhabitants. Its post offices are Aurora, Belpassi, Butteville, Condit, Jefferson, Newellsville, Silverton, Sublimity, Wacconda, St. Louis, St. Paul's, and Salem.

The Oregon Central Railroad (East-Side) passes through the entire length of this county, and has a depot located at Salem. This road is intended to bring the great Willamette Valley in connection with tide water. The work on this route is being pushed forward with unmistakeable energy, and its early completion is a fixed fact. Another railroad is contemplated running from Salem, in a north-westerly direction, through the counties of Polk, Yamhill, Washington and Clatsop, to Astoria. A feasible route has been surveyed, but as yet nothing definite has transpired towards its location.

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### No. 7.

## MULTNOMAH COUNTY.

This county, situated on the navigable waters of the Columbia river, and divided in the western part from north to south by the Willamette, from which it receives its commercial importance, with the Sandy river, in the eastern part, furnishing natural advantages for mill sites and water-power, a fertile soil, pure water, mild and genial climate, and commercial advantages over any other portion of the State, makes it a point where industry and enterprise are more promptly rewarded, and capital judiciously invested has prospects of richer and more speedy returns than almost any other locality on the Pacific coast.

The price of farming land in this county has probably a wider range than in any other locality in the State, the price being determined by the fertility of the soil, the amount of improvements and proximity to Portland—the great re-shipping point and commercial centre of the State; the price varying from three to thirty dollars per acre. Although this county contains much valuable farming land, and is of



importance in an agricultural point of view, being far superior in productiveness and agricultural resources most of the Atlantic States, still, when compared with the rich valleys and broad prairies of many of the middle and upper counties of the State. Multnomah would rank as second for grain growing, stock raising and general farming purposes.

The soil of this county is composed of three varieties. The northern part, along the Columbia river, being an alluvial deposit; the middle and southern portion, being a yellow clay and sand loam, interspersed with small valleys of black muck or vegetable mould, known as ash swale and beaver land.

The valley of Columbia, contained within the limits of this county, is about twenty-five miles long, and from one to three miles broad. Add to this the different islands belonging to the county, known as Government island, Hayden's island, Sauvie island, Swan island, Ross's island, and a number of others of less importance, this county has an area of river bottom or interval land of between fifty and sixty thousand acres, mostly covered with a luxuriant growth of nutritious grass, peculiarly adapted to dairy and stock raising, to which it is mostly applied, being celebrated for its excellent butter and cheese, and containing some of the finest dairies in the State.

A large amount of these lands are subject to an annual overflow, from the first of June to the middle of July, caused by a rise in the Columbia river from the melting snow in the Rocky mountains.

The water deposits a sediment from one-half to three-fourths of an inch in depth, renders the meadow lands exceedingly fertile, enabling the farmer year by year to remove large crops of hay and grass without impoverishing the soil. There are high ridges extending through these bottom lands, called hardhack ridges, which seldom overflow, and where

the farmer, by a system of ordinary cultivation, can harvest from forty to sixty bushels of wheat, and from sixty to ninety bushels of oats to the acre; and seeded to timothy, will produce from three to four tons of the best of hay per acre. The land immediately on the river bank is of exceeding fertility, producing potatoes, corn, grain of all kinds, with fruit and vegetables of the different varieties, in abundance.

Leaving the alluvial soil of the Columbia bottoms, and proceeding southward between the Willamette, in the west, and Sandy river, in the eastern part of the county, the land rises into gentle swells, covered mostly with timber, with an occasional hill of moderate height, but would not be considered mountainous or broken. This land is a yellow clay and sand loam, and when cleared and cultivated, produces vegetables, grain, grass and fruit in paying quantities, but not of so luxuriant a growth as on the river bottoms, unless when manured, or when there are small valleys of ash swale, creek bottom and beaver land. There are a number of good farms cut out of the timber in this part of the county, and the land is well adapted to that system of farming followed by the Pennsylvania, New York or New England farmer. When sown to grass, this land produces timothy, red and white clover, and forms a thick, velvet green sod of luxuriant growth.

The water in this county is pure and abundant, with some water-power, but of no great importance. Where not supplied in sufficient quantities for domestic purposes, by natural springs and brooks, it can be easily obtained by digging wells in most all parts of the county.

The different varieties of timber are the red, white and yellow fir, cedar, hemlock, ash, oak, cottonwood, maple, alder, yew and crabapple. There is timber in abundance for all practical purposes, besides large quantities annually converted into lumber at Portland for exportation.

The climate is mild and temperate—the extremes of cold and heat being from five to one hundred and two degrees above zero, and these points not having been reached but twice within the last nine years.

The general health of the county is good. A few light cases of billious fever and ague occur annually where people expose themselves by excessive labor in rain, but the county is far less liable to those diseases than the most healthy locations in northern Wisconsin.

There are a few small tracts of Government land in the southeastern part of the county. This land is watered by springs and brooks of pure water emptying into the Sandy river, is easily cleared, with a rich alluvial soil of vegetable mould, and capable of being converted into fruitful fields and independent homes. There is also quite an amount of school land in this county valuable for timber and agricultural purposes, which can be furnished for two dollars per acre.

The advantages for schooling and meetings for religious worship are equal to those enjoyed by many of the older States. A good system of common school education, with good schoolhouses, is established throughout the county. There is also an academy and female seminary at Portland. There are nine different church edifices in the county belonging to the various religious denominations, some of them costing not less than fifty thousand dollars.

Portland, the county seat of Multnomah, and the great emporium of the State, is situated on the west bank of the lower Willamette river, about twelve miles above its confluence with the Columbia. With a harbor which steamboats and sailing vessels of all sizes and from all parts of the world can reach in safety, with convenient docks, wharves and warehouses for re-shipping and packing, and being the distributing radius for the merchandise, mechanical and agricultural wares, with the vast amount of other supplies

consumed in the extensive mining, lumbering and agricultural regions of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana Territories, makes it the depot for extensive commerce, and in a business point of view is second only to San Francisco on the Pacific coast. The trade of Portland with the interior and different points along the Willamette and Columbia, requires the constant employment of between fifteen and twenty river steamers. Her intercourse, by ocean steamer and sailing vessels with San Francisco, New York, Victoria, the Sandwich Islands, and other foreign ports, gives life to business, and activity to an increasing trade. The elegant and substantial brick machine shops and commercial houses, erected the past season, among which we notice, for architectural beauty and finish, the banking house of Messrs. Ladd & Tilton, and the elegant brick block erected by R. D. White, Esq., with several others, costing in the aggregate over a quarter of a million dollars, is a proof of the rapid growth and financial prosperity of this city.

There has been a court house and and jail recently erected in Portland, at a cost of over \$100,000. A U. S. custom house, postoffice and court room are to be added to her public buildings another season.

From the business directory of 1868 we extract the following summary of occupations of the people of Portland.

Portland has forty-four accountants, forty-one attorneys at law, one assay office, one auctioneer, two architects, three dealers in agricultural implements, four banking houses, one barrel factory, six booksellers and stationers, eight boot and shoe dealers, twenty-seven boot and shoe makers, nine boarding houses, seven bakeries, two brick yards, one broom factory, nine commission merchants, two civil engineers, eight contractors and builders, two claim agents, six collectors, four collecting agents, one coppersmith, four coffee and oyster saloons, six clothing dealers, two cigar makers, four

confectioners, four crockery dealers, two coopers, ten cigar and tobacco dealers, two carpet stores, three cabinet makers, three dealers in Chinese goods, two Chinese physicians, nine dress makers, six drug stores, two dancing academies, five dentists, one express company, one electric physician, three fish markets, four founderies, one farrier, seven fruit stores, five furniture stores, one factory for manufacturing fire works, three feed stores, one gas factory, three dealers in gold dust, three gunsmiths, thirty grocery stores, sixteen hotels, four real estate agents, three hatters, five hardware stores, nine insurance agents, forty-eight liquor saloons, four liquor stores, one lime and cement store, sixteen draymen, nine livery stables, ten wholesale dry goods stores, twenty-four retail dry goods stores, two match factories, sixteen meat markets, four mills, seven millers, three music stores, three marble shops, fifteen notaries, two opticians, one oculist, ten painters, three professors of music, fifteen physicians, four photograph galleries, two job printing offices, five newspaper offices, two plumbers, two reporters, six restaurants, two seed stores, two sash and door factories, two salt manufactories, three saddlers, one stencil cutter, three soda factories, one soap factory, six stove stores, two surveyors, six sewing machine agents, six merchant tailors, one telegraph office, two tanners, one turpentine factory, five jewelers, one wagon wood store, six carriage makers and one wig maker.

Springville, a neat town situated four miles below Portland on the Willamette, is a good business point, with deep water and good harbor, and although not located in the immediate vicinity of any of the great farming districts of Oregon, one firm alone have shipped, the present season, over one hundred thousand bushels of grain.

Multnomah county, although the smallest, and of less agricultural importance than many others, is the wealthiest county in the State. Taking the popular vote of 1868 as a



basis upon which to make an estimate this county would contain about 10,000 inhabitants, and with an assessable property of \$5,436,050 would be over five hundred and forty-three dollars for each inhabitant of the county. The assessment for 1868 shows an increase of over \$645,000 in the capital of this county during the past year.

With a railroad on each side of the Willamette river, already under process of construction, known as the Oregon Central, (east and west side,) the contemplated Columbia river valley, connecting Portland with the Union Pacific by the way of Salt Lake and our northern mines, with a branch of the Northern Pacific sure to be built to connect this point with Puget Sound, with all these contemplated great enterprises making this their natural converging point, Multnomah holds out flattering inducements to the enterprising business man of whatever occupation, who seeks profitable investment for his capital. And Portland bids fair to one day become the great Chicago of the Pacific Coast.

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## UMATILLA COUNTY.

### No. 8.

THIS county, situated east of the Cascade Mountains, in that division of the State known as Eastern Oregon, its northern boundary resting on the navigable waters of the Columbia river gives it commercial advantages superior to many of the eastern counties of the State, while its numerous small rivers and creeks with their fertile valleys, its rolling prairies and extensive table lands, covered with grass, and gradually stretching away in one grand scene of loveliness till lost from view among distant hills covered with

forests of gigantic pine, gives it inherent resources and natural advantages not to be overlooked by those seeking a home in any portion of the Pacific States. Bounded north by the Columbia River, which separates it from Washington Territory, East by Union county and the Blue Mountains, South by Grant, and West by Wasco counties, and being on the direct route from the eastern mines to the city of Portland, from which point most of the mining districts must always obtain their supplies, this county, for variety and fertility of soil, ease of access, facilities for transportation, grazing, stock raising, and grain growing advantages combined, is destined soon to become a place where capital may seek profitable investment and make it one of the thickly settled counties of the State. The face of the country in this county is diversified, hilly and in some parts mountainous, quite a large portion is composed of rolling prairie, or table lands, covered with a luxuriant growth of bunch grass, and furnishes a part of the immense pasturage and extensive range for stock, for which this portion of Oregon is so justly celebrated. Some of the more elevated or mountainous portions of the county are covered with forests of valuable timber, composed of fir, larch, and pine. while willow, cottonwood or balm and alder, are found along the margin of most of the rivers, creeks and small streams.

The geological formation of this county, although maintaining that general appearance so peculiar to that portion of Oregon lying east of the Cascade Range, indicates less of the volcanic and more of the sedimentary formation than some of the more eastern portions of the State. The principal ingredients of the soil of this county are, silica, alumina. carbonate of magnesia, oxide of iron, phosphate of lime. and organic matter in various proportions, silica generally forming about sixty in every one hundred of the compo-

ment parts of this soil. As far as the soil of this county has been tested for agricultural purposes, the result has been in the highest degree satisfactory. Wheat, oats, barley, and all the different varieties of small grain, yield abundant crops wherever properly cultivated, and it is contended by good practical farmers and those competent to judge, that much of the uplands, rolling prairies and hills of Umatilla county will some day become one of the successful grain-growing districts of Oregon, and produce extensively that superior article of wheat for which this State is so justly celebrated. The valleys along the creeks and river bottoms of this locality are an alluvial deposit, and very productive, varying from a few hundred yards to several miles in width, producing all kinds of crops natural to a temperate climate, and of the most luxuriant growth. The apple, pear, plum and quince thrive well in this locality, while along the valleys and creek bottoms may be successfully raised grapes, peaches, Indian corn, tomatoes, tobacco, onions and melons, together with a great variety of vegetables and small fruit, not surpassed for perfection in any portion of the State.

The most important valleys in this county are those located on Willow, Butter, Birch, and the South-west bank of Wild Horse Creeks, together with quite an extensive valley called the Meadows, along the Umatilla River. The water in this county is pure and soft, but it is not as abundantly supplied by springs and brooks in some localities, as in many other portions of the State, although a number of good unoccupied mill sites are located in this county and the creeks and rivers furnish sufficient water for farming and stock-raising purposes. This county is approached from the East by a good wagon road from the Missouri river, direct across the plains, by the different mining regions in Idaho, Montana and Eastern Oregon, to the navigable waters of the Columbia River, while a line of steamers furnish daily communication between this locality and the western world.



A large portion of the land in this county is still unclaimed, and quite an extensive tract, known as the "Reservation," is owned and occupied by the Umatilla Indians, a tribe peaceably inclined, and in many instances adopting the customs of civilization. Farming land partly improved, can be easily obtained at reasonable prices, and good Government land can be had in many parts of this county. The immigrant can easily procure supplies of all kinds at reasonable rates, direct trade being had with Portland, stores and trading ports being established in many parts of the county. There is one grist-mill and one saw-mill on the Indian reservation in this county; also a saw mill at the foot of the mountains in the Eastern portion of the county.

Umatilla City, the former county seat, is a place of considerable importance, and contains seven stores of general merchandise, one drug store, and one hard ware store, two blacksmith shops, where quite an extensive business is done, one wagon and carriage shop, two hotels, and one Post Office. Some idea may be formed of the amount of business done at this little town on the Columbia by the quantity of freight landed at that place from the Oregon Steam Navigation Co's. boats during the year 1868, which reached a total of 7,500 tons.

Marshal, where the new county buildings are being erected has prospects of becoming a smart business town, and contains a Postoffice, stores, hotel, and has good surroundings for a flourishing town.

Meadowville is another new town in this county, with a Postoffice and other business establishments, which the surrounding country demands.

This county covers an area of about 3,047,040 acres of land, with between six and seven thousand acres under improvement, and has a population of nearly three thousand inhabitants, with an assessed property valuation of \$602,-

840. A number of good common schools are established in this county, and the different religious denominations are well represented, according to its number of inhabitants. There is quite an amount of gold mining done along the bars of the Columbia river in this county. Gold has also been found on the head waters of the Umatilla and its tributaries, the croppings of coal, iron and copper ore are abundant in this region, showing that these minerals exist here, but the mining wealth of this county is considered of but secondary importance when contrasted with those vast regions of grass so well adapted to stock raising purposes in this portion of the State.

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## UNION COUNTY.

### No. 9.

UNION county is bounded north by the Walla Walla valley in Washington Territory, on the 46th parallel of north latitude; east, by Snake river, which separates it from Idaho Territory; south, by Baker county; and west, by the Blue mountains and Umatilla county—and contains within its limits a large tract of agricultural and grazing land, known as the Grand Ronde Valley. This valley comprises the most important agricultural portion of the county, the following description of which is taken from a prize essay written by W. Lair Hill, Esq., for the Oregon State Agricultural Society :

“The Grand Ronde, lying a few leagues north of the Powder river valley, is a beautiful circular valley, some twenty or thirty miles in diameter, watered by a stream bearing the same name. Surrounded by high hills or spurs of the Blue mountains, its amphitheatrical form relieving its smooth,

grassy surface, intersected by a bold stream, fringed on either side by small trees, renders it sufficiently charming, to say nothing of the fertility of its soil, which is unsurpassed."

This county is being fast settled up, but still has large tracts of government land unoccupied, and well adapted to grazing and agricultural purposes. The Wallowe valley, on a small tributary of the Grand Ronde river, is not surpassed for beauty or fertility, and for importance is inferior to the Grand Ronde valley only in its size. The northern portion of the Powder river valley is within the limits of this county, and has already been described. The Grand Ronde valley is surrounded by high elevations or spurs of the Blue mountains, alternating between a luxuriant growth of bunch grass and forests of gigantic fir, larch, and pine. The timber from the hills and mountains furnishes good opportunities for obtaining lumber of all kinds for fences and building purposes, while the extensive table and hill lands, covered with grass, furnishes pasturage in almost inexhaustible supplies.

The soil of this valley is an alluvial deposit of decomposed earth and vegetable mold, and contains less of silica, phosphate of lime, and magnesia, and more of alumina, oxide of iron, and organic matter, than that of Powder river valley. This soil is very fertile, producing wheat, barley, oats, and all the other varieties of small grain, in abundance, also the different kinds of fruit, and vegetables, of the most luxuriant growth. It is stated, by good, reliable farmers residing in this county, that from forty to sixty bushels of wheat per acre, with an ordinary system of cultivation, is no uncommon yield. Oats and barley do correspondingly well, yielding from fifty to one hundred bushels of the finest grain to the acre.

The water in this county is excellent, and in abundance for all kinds of milling, mechanical, and domestic purposes, being supplied from the foot-hills and mountains by springs

and small brooks, while the Grand Ronde river and its tributaries, in their various meanderings and Cascades, furnish mill-sites and stock water in abundance the entire length of the county. There is also a number of hot or warm springs in the central portion of this valley, supposed to be valuable for their medicinal qualities, but the water has never received a scientific analysis, and its properties are yet unknown.

The climate of this county is similar in many respects to other portions of eastern Oregon. Dry winters, short and cold; long springs and falls, beautiful and mild, with frequent showers of rain. In fact, the bracing mountain air, tempering the rays of the summer's sun from a cloudless sky, gives a healthful luxury to the climate of this valley unsurpassed in any other portion of the world. In winter, for two or three weeks, old memories are often awakened, and the monotony of life enlivened by mirth and laughter, mingled with the ring of skates, or the chime of merry sleigh-bells. Snow seldom lays on the ground more than two or three weeks during the winter in this valley, and the farmer generally commences plowing, sowing, and gardening the fore part of March. Stock of all kinds is frequently left to run at large the entire winter, and does well without grain or hay. But the most profitable, as well as the most humane way of treating stock, in this, as well as all other portions of Oregon, is to furnish a good supply of hay from the luxuriant growth of grass in the valleys, and provide sheds, to shelter them from the storms that occur during the winter in this, as well as in other parts of the world.

Indian corn, tobacco, onions, tomatoes, and peaches, can be raised successfully in favorable locations in this valley, if properly cared for. Apples, pears, and plums are being cultivated, and flourish remarkably well. The soil of this valley shows a peculiar adaptation to the growth of the differ-

ent varieties of tame grass, and especially to red top and timothy. But the luxuriant growth of the wild or native grasses in this valley, known as blue joint, fowl meadow, limberwill, &c., supersede the necessity of cultivating other varieties for hay. The mineral resources of this county are also important, and are surpassed only by the fertility of its soil. The Eagle creek gold mines show the auriferous character of the mountains, gulches, and canyons of this county, while the croppings of coal, iron, lead, and copper, met with in various localities, are proof that its mineral wealth has scarcely commenced to be developed.

The immigrant can obtain supplies of all kinds in this valley, with which to begin life in a new country. A good wagon road from the Columbia river to the mining camps in eastern Oregon and Idaho passes through this valley; also, there is a daily line of stages, carrying the U. S. mail, from the Dalles to Salt Lake City. The society in this valley is not surpassed by any other locality as recently settled as this, the inhabitants manifesting in a marked degree a spirit of honest industry, moral integrity, and rural economy; and the stranger, traveling in this vicinity, will find, after a fatiguing day's journey, in this valley, a hearty welcome at the home of the new settler, where, at the close of the day, entire happiness seems to prevail, "and drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds."

A good common school system has been established in this county, and the inhabitants have shown a commendable spirit in taking measures to secure their proportion of the general school fund of the State, and by adding to it by private subscription and general taxation, been able to furnish as good a system of common schools as is enjoyed in some of the older States. The various religious denominations are well represented in this vicinity, religious services being held on the Sabbath in most of the towns and thickly-

settled neighborhoods, and the rites of barbarous savages are fast giving way to the worship of the Most High God.

La Grande, the county seat, is a flourishing town, situated about eighty-five miles from navigation on the Columbia river, and is on the stage road leading from the navigable waters of that river to the extensive mining districts of eastern Oregon, Montana, Idaho, and to the Salt Lake valley. This town has eight stores, two hotels, three blacksmiths, one wagon shop, one flouring mill, two churches, one academy, and a post-office.

Union, situated about fifteen miles southeast of La Grande, on the opposite side of the valley, is a town of considerable importance, has a post-office, flouring mill, hotel, public school, blacksmith shop, and four stores. Forest Cove is another new town in this valley, with a flouring mill, public school, blacksmith shop, post office, and store. Summerville has a post office, store, hotel, flouring mill, and public school. Orodell has a postoffice, store, flouring mill, and public school. There is also a hotel, with bathing and summer house, at the Warm Springs, on the stage road from La Grande to Union.

This county has a population of nearly 3,000, with an assessable property of \$400,000, and about 9,000 acres of land under improvement, and covers an area of about 2,880,000 acres of land. There is also a number of good saw mills situated at convenient points in this county, and the new settler can obtain all kinds of lumber for building purposes, at reasonable prices.

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## BAKER COUNTY.

### No. 10.

This county, lying east of the Cascade mountains, and about 250 miles from Portland, by the usual traveled route



is the extreme south-eastern county in the State. Bounded north by Union county, east by Idaho Territory, south by the State of Nevada and west by Grant county, it is contained within that region lying between the Cascade and the Rocky mountains; the western portion of which is now known as Eastern Oregon; and of which Gen. Fremont in the official report of his Exploration says: "Approaching the Burnt River country from the east, we now come into a mountainous region, where the soil is good, and in which the face of the country is covered with nutritive grass and dense forests; land embracing many varieties of trees peculiar to the country, and on which the timber exhibits a luxuriance of growth unknown to the eastern part of the continent and to Europe."

"This mountainous region," he continues, "connects itself in the southward and westward with the elevated country belonging to the California or Cascade range, and forms the eastern limit of the fertile and timbered lands along the desert and mountainous region included within the Great Utah Basin."

This county offers good inducements for the immigrant or settler wishing to locate in, and develop a new country capable of furnishing thousands of families with the blessings of independent and happy homes. The honest miner, whose industry, perseverance and daring—with pick pan and shovel, has for so many years sustained the credit of the nation by furnishing to the financial world the base of all their circulating medium—can find remunerative employment in developing the auriferous mountains, canyons and gulches of this country for centuries to come. The farmer wishing to locate in a country of mineral wealth, where products of all kinds will command the highest price in gold, will find in the fertile valleys of Baker county the natural elements by which perseverance and industry will in a few short years bring peace and plenty smiling around the doors of a happy home.

The herdsman or grazier wishing to engage extensively in stock and cattle raising, can from many a grass crowned summit and detached spur of the Blue mountains, see beautiful plateaux of bunch grass, stretching for scores of miles in a south-westerly direction unoccupied and unclaimed and capable of pasturing flocks and herds that would put Lot and Abraham of old to the blush, or turning in a north and easterly direction can view the smooth green surface of fertile valleys intersected with bold streams lying seemingly a thousand cubits beneath his feet. This county, although formerly considered a wilderness covered with sage and grease-wood, with here and there a barren desert of alkali, is found to contain numerous small rivers and creeks, with fertile valleys capable of settlement and plains of grass of almost unlimited extent.

Crooked River rises in the northern part of Nevada and enters Baker county in the extreme south-west corner, runs in a northerly direction near the west line of the county a distance of about twenty miles, when it makes a short turn to the east and continues its course in that direction almost to the east line of the county a distance of sixty miles, and unites with the east fork of the Owyhee and Jordan creek and forms the Owyhee river. The different meanderings of this river justly entitle it to the name of Crooked river, and with its tributaries furnishes water to numerous small valleys through the entire southern portion of the county. But this part of the county is but little known, being traversed by bands of hostile Indians and seldom approached except by the hunter and trapper and the daring miner in search of gold. Owyhee river formed by the junction of Crooked river and Jordan Creek in the southern part of the county, runs almost north, parallel with the east line of the county, a distance of 100 miles, and empties into the Snake river.

The Owyhee has numerous fertile valleys and tributaries.

but is principally noted for its mineral indications and immense stock range through which it flows. Malheur River rises in the Malheur Lake, in the center of Grant county, enters Baker from the west, crosses the entire county from west to east, and enters the Snake river on the eastern boundary of the county, Malheur passing through and watering the entire central portion of the county, has numerous cascades and waterfalls, capable of some day furnishing motive power for all the manufacturing purposes of extensive settlements. Has also extensive valleys of alluvial bottom lands, better adapted to settlement and cultivation than many portions of the Eastern and Middle States.

From the summit of a spur of the Blue mountains that divides these two rivers, the scenery, for beauty and grandeur can scarcely be surpassed. To the south can be seen the Burt river valley, above Clark's Creek, stretching away in a westerly direction in one unbroken line of verdant beauty, its smooth green surface presenting a strong contrast with the undulating upland, alternating between grass-crowned hills and forests of gigantic pine. Turning to the north the valley of the Powder river lying in full view, far more extensive and equally as beautiful, can scarcely fail to strike the beholder with awe and admiration, and beget the wish for the mechanic, day-laborer and landless poor of the older countries to apply the magic touch of civilization to those rich gifts of nature and convert these extensive wilds into happy homes.

These valleys are well adapted to a system of general farming. Grain of all kinds matures well, and many farms have been opened and permanent settlements established. Fruits, vegetables, butter, cheese, and all kinds of farm productions are raised here and command the high price at the various mining camps in this county.

The geological formation of this county gives unmistakable

bly evidence of volcanic action, and the soil generally has less of decomposed vegetable and organic matter than that of eastern Oregon.

An analysis made by Fremont and given in his official report, shows the soil of Powder river valley to contain the following component parts:

Silicia 72.50; Alumina 6.25; Carbonate of Lime 6.86; Carbonate Magnesia 4.62; Oxide of Iron 1.20; Organic Matter 4.50; Water and Loss 4.72.

The climate of this county is peculiar to that of eastern Oregon, being hot and dry in summer and cold in winter, the thermometer sometimes indicating 15 deg. below zero in winter, and 105 deg. in summer, but these points are not often reached. Snow falls in the valley, but is of short duration, generally gone in a few days. The ground is free from frost and snow in March and fit for cultivation, cattle wintering in these valleys with but little extra feed. The altitude and mountain air of this county render it healthy, ague and bilious diseases being almost entirely unknown. The water is pure, soft, and abundant. There are a number of warm springs in this county. Timber is sufficiently distributed through this county to supply all practical purposes and consists of fir, cedar, larch, mountain mahogany and mountain pine. Rich gold and silver quartz leads exist in this county, also rich placer diggings, among which are those at Mormon basin, Rye valley, Clark's Creek, Shasta and Auburn; new discoveries are being made every year. Coal, iron, lead and copper, are known to exist in this vicinity, but the precious metals have taken precedence and those have not been developed. It is asserted by good practical miners that the mineral resources of this county are almost inexhaustible and that mining in this locality is but just in its infancy. This county proper covers an area of 4,600,000 acres of land, with about 5,000 acres under improvement;

has a population of 3,700 and an assessed property valuation of \$396,326. The stage road from the Dalles to Salt Lake passes through this county, also the old immigrant road from the plains. The stage road is supplied with good teams and coaches and is kept in good repair for travel. Merchandise and supplies of all kinds are easily obtained from Portland by the way of the Columbia river, where the O. S. N. Co. have a daily line of steamers running to all the different locations along the river, conveying freight and passengers in a safe and expeditious manner, at a very reasonable rate. There is a good wagon road established from the Columbia river to Baker county, also to all other points of importance in the eastern part of the State. There are several good lumbering mills in this county, and a flour mill will probably be erected in another year. Stores, merchants, schools and places for religious worship, with the various professions, are better represented in this county than could be reasonably expected in so recently a settled county as this.

Auburn, the county seat, is a thriving little mining town situated on Powder river, has stores, hotels, machine-shops, post-office and various kinds of business establishments necessary to supply the wants of the surrounding country. The other towns with stores and post-offices are Baker City, Express Ranch and Farewell Bend.

#### No. 11.

### WASCO COUNTY.

THIS county, lying immediately east of the Cascade mountains, its entire northern boundary resting on the great Columbia river, stretching south, parallel with the Cascade range, nearly the entire width of the State, a distance of



not less than two hundred miles, being about one hundred miles in width from east to west, has an area almost equal to that of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts combined.

With her climate dry and healthy, her mountains rich in undeveloped mineral wealth, her valleys of unsurpassed loveliness and fertility, timber that might vie with ancient Lebanon, with facilities for grazing and pasture lands more than sufficient to supersede the necessity of a separation between Lot and Abraham of old, and prevent the quarrel between their herdsmen, with mountain scenery of surpassing grandeur, Wasco may be considered the gem of the mountains, in nature's purity, still retaining her primeval wealth.

Compared with its extent of territory, the settlements of Wasco may be said to be confined almost exclusively to the northern portion of the county along the Columbia river and the intermediate branches. All the fertile valleys and excellent locations for stock-raising and general farming purposes, are known to exist along the Des Chutes, the John Day's, the Crooked river, and their tributaries, with valleys of less size, but of no less fertility, in the center, and the extensive tracts near Klamath lake, in the south, offer inducements for settlement far superior to those held out to the early settlers of the Atlantic. Still a large portion of this county may be set down as an almost unbroken wilderness of mountains and valleys, hills and plains, with here and there a lake and the tributary of a small river.

A few new settlements have been commenced in some of the valleys in the southern part of the county, also a settlement in the Ochoco valley, the latter approached by a wagon road running east from Linn county. The Oregon Central Military Road, running east through Wasco, Grant, and Baker counties, from the head of the Willamette valley,



is intended to connect this part of Oregon with the Union Pacific Railroad, somewhere in the Humboldt basin.

The following letter from L. L. Rowland, an old and esteemed resident of Oregon, addressed to the President of the State Agricultural Society, will give further valuable information relative to the natural resources of Oregon, and the inducements it holds out to immigrants to make it their future home :

WASCO Co., May 28, 1868.

A. J. DUFUR, Esq. :

*Sir*—I am happy to embrace the first opportunity of answering your circular and letter, asking for facts to throw before the people of the Atlantic States, who contemplate making Oregon their future home.

Oregon has been my home since early boyhood. Her interests are my interests. I will, therefore, cheerfully speak of the county in which I reside.

Wasco county, bounded on the north its entire width by the great Columbia river, with its numerous and busy streams and extensive fisheries, embraces large tracts of unoccupied Government lands of good quality, which is well adapted to the production of vegetables, Indian corn, wheat, oats, barley, and all fruits of this latitude. These lands may be obtained, of course, by pre-emption or homestead laws. Other choice lands, with titles and improvements, may be bought at a fair price. Our winters are cold, dry, and short, springs early, warm, and long, summers short and hot, but windy. Autumn is long, cool, and healthy. The climate is said to be dry, yet we usually have good rains through the months of June and September. Irrigation was regarded for a time as indispensable to successful farming, but this system is fast falling into disuse. Good crops are now produced on brush lands, where it is wholly impracticable

to bring water. Even the tops of high hills are being cultivated, with a degree of success.

Our county is well watered by numerous clear, cold, rapid creeks, and the greatest profusion of lasting springs, affording comfort, convenience, and health to both man and beast. An abundance of timber of the best quality for all ordinary purposes, such as pine, fir, cedar, tamarack, oak, etc., may be obtained along the foot of the mountains, convenient to the most natural mill sites. The timber through most of our farming and grazing districts, however, is confined almost exclusively to the margin of our streams, and is quite limited.

Our pasturage, we feel bold to assert, is unsurpassed by any other in America.

Wasco, the name of our county, is an Indian word, signifying grass, and this is, par excellence, the grass county of the nation. From these grass-grown hills our beef and mutton markets are supplied, in the main, throughout the year. Uncared for and unfed during ordinary winters, teams and pack trains are recruited for the next season's work. Only during deep snows, which occur very early, do stock require any feed, however inclement the weather may be. Indeed, Victoria beef contractors now, I am credibly informed, are buying cattle in the Willamette valley, shipping them here via the Columbia river steamers, and leaving them upon our matchless Wasco hills to fatten. They propose, after a time, to re-ship by the same boats, to connect with the ocean steamers, and thence to Victoria, their final destination. In consequence of these superior grazing advantages, our people are engaging extensively in raising all kinds of stock, of which they have some of the finest the country affords. Horse raising is a prominent and lucrative business. They may be raised so cheaply as to warrant the expense of driving them to any part of the United States. But experience

can adequately appreciate all the facilities enjoyed by the Wasco stock raisers. The water advantages for all kinds of milling, mechanical and manufacturing purposes, it is claimed by competent judges, are not equaled on the coast. Rock bound streams with large supplies of water projected over numerous precipices of every desirable height are interspersed over the broad surface of the entire country, while in the immediate vicinity of Dalles City may be obtained and rendered available for every conceivable want, with a very light expense.

Improvements in the county are not such as would meet a reasonable expectation. Much of the fencing is frail and temporary, consisting of posts and sawed lumber, but ditching is daily growing more popular, and will soon take the place of the rickety boarding. Stone fencing, too, is becoming quite common, and will after a while in my opinion, supplant all other kinds in many localities. Barns, stables, etc., are criminally scarce and temporary, but this neglected branch of rural economy is now receiving more attention. Dwellings are for the most part comfortable, convenient and neat. The buildings in Dalles City are more substantial and costly, consisting of many excellent structures of brick and stone. Here buildings of the best quality are now being erected.

Dalles City, our county seat and only town, is located about one hundred miles east of Portland, on the Columbia river, where it leaves the great basin of farming and grazing country known as Middle Oregon, and enters the Cascade mountains, which separates the eastern part of Oregon and Washington Territory from the Willamette, Umpqua and Puget Sound districts. Barlow's road, the most practicable and popular route over the Cascade range, enters the mountains forty miles southwest of this, and contributes largely to the prosperity of the county and its town.

But during much of the year the best of these roads, are, and of necessity must always be, wholly impassable, in consequence of the deep snows which fall during the winter season. The pass through these mountains, formed by the Columbia river, is the only one which will admit of the construction of a thoroughfare that may be available through the whole year. When, too, a railroad shall connect these two great sections of country, it must pass through this Columbia Gap, all the Utopian dreams to the contrary notwithstanding. Hence it may be seen that Dalles City is and must ever remain the commercial radiating point whence the counties on our east and south, together with much of Idaho and Washington Territories must receive their imports and return their exports. To her they must ever pay tribute, as well as grow with her growth, and prosper with her prosperity. Thus located and surrounded, she bids ere long to be and remain one of the most important cities of the State.

We have at present some good mills, factories, shops, etc., but there is a heavy and growing demand for more. In this respect, our county is in its infancy, and while it is immensely rich in latent resources, it wants labor and capital to bring them into requisition and render them available. With these we should soon grow prosperous, rich and happy. Our lawyers, most of whom are men of ability, are more than able to meet the wants of the county. We are quite well supplied with school teachers, who are amply adequate to their task. Members of nearly all religious denominations may be found here; but as usual in new countries, the number of ministers is limited. For such this is a noble field for the accomplishment of good, and all such will meet with a hearty welcome from our people.

I am as ever,

Yours very truly,  
L. L. ROWLAND.

Wasco county has a population of between two and three thousand inhabitants, with an assessable property of nearly two million dollars. A good woolen mill is now in active operation at the Dalles, which adds materially to the increase of business in this already enterprising city. The immigrant can obtain supplies of all kinds at this point, with which to commence life in a new country.

One weekly paper is published at Dalles City. There is also a telegraph office and a line of telegraph connecting this point with Portland, and giving it direct communication with all other parts of the United States.

A United States Mint is located at this point, and will probably be built and in operation within the present year.

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## No. 12.

### POLK COUNTY.

THIS county, situated on the west bank of the Willamette river, opposite Marion county, and bounded on the north by Yamhill, south by Benton and west by Tillamook counties, has a population of about 5,000 inhabitants, and contains as fine grain, grass and grazing lands, as are to be found in the State.

Lying immediately east of the Coast Range, and in the heart of the Willamette Valley, her fertile soil and beautiful rolling prairies, her numerous valleys surrounded by hills covered by a luxuriant and nutritious growth of bunch grass and wild clover, known only to particular localities in Oregon and California, with various kinds of useful timber more than sufficient to supply the demand for all agricultural, mechanical and manufacturing purposes, with a genial climate, pure water and productive soil, Polk county holds



out inducements to industry and enterprise which tend to make a community prosperous, wealthy and permanently blessed. The face of the country in this county is diversified and hilly, interspersed with numerous small prairies, or what might be more properly called valleys of an alluvial deposit and unusual fertility.

Although there is not that vast extent of broad prairie in this county that gives so striking a feature to many of the great grain growing districts of the west, still the farmer from Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin would look with astonishment and delight at the beautiful fields of wheat, yielding from twenty to forty, and in many instances as high as sixty bushels to the acre, free from all those imperfections and diseases that, for the past few years, have proved so injurious to that department of industry in the older States, and furnishing an article of flour which can be produced only from the wheat of Oregon.

The industrious, thrifty husbandman, from the frosty climate, bleak hills and sterile soil of happy New England, although at first almost shuddering with horror at the supposed improvidence of the farmers of Oregon, in allowing finer heads of grain than ever before greeted the New Englander's view to be harvested by the hogs, would rub his hands with delight at the thought of the immense fortune that could be realized from the wool, beef, pork, butter and cheese, at so many cents and a-sixteenth per pound, that could be so easily produced from those green hills and fertile valleys of Oregon, capable of cultivation for many a month, while his own native land is covered with frost and snow.

The immigrant from the sunny South, although not at first particularly struck with the fertility of the soil, as he beholds the luxuriant fields of grain, grass, fruit and vegetables, blending so manifestly the productiveness of the south with the healthy, invigorating climate of the north,



would, in our own fertile valleys, smiling in almost perpetual green beneath the shadow of mountains covered with snow, find a land where the northern lily blooms in its purity in the generous shadow of the southern rose.

Polk county, with an area of 800,000 acres, has about 95,000 under cultivation, and an assessable property of \$1,234,529, being an increase of \$201,350 within the last two years. Although this county has numerous good warehouses and landings for river steamers along the Willamette river the entire length of its eastern boundary, still Polk is decidedly agricultural, and may be set down as one of the substantial farming counties of the State.

While this county has not one-eighth of its area under cultivation, it is computed that nine-tenths are susceptible of settlement, and at least four-fifths might be made to produce wheat, barley, oats, and the different varieties of small grain, and is also adapted to the growth of the different kinds of vegetables, also apples, pears, plums, cherries, quinces, grapes, and small fruits; while the peach, and Indian corn, can be cultivated successfully in many localities, with proper care.

The following information was furnished the Committee through the columns of the Polk County *Signal*, by J. H. Upton, Esq., editor of that paper, and a gentleman well posted in the resources of the county for which he speaks.

The public buildings of the county consist of a new courthouse and jail, which, with the outbuildings, cost about \$13,250.

The average price of improved farming land is about ten dollars per acre; unimproved, three. The base of the soil is clay, with a mixture of sand, oxide of iron, lime, and other valuable ingredients, in varying quantities, and rendering the greater portion well adapted to agricultural and horticultural purposes. The greatest part of the land in this

county that is not well located for agriculture, is as good as can be found for raising horses, hogs, sheep, and cattle. Upon the mountains, and along the streams, there is plenty of fir, oak, maple, ash, and alder, and other valuable timber well adapted to farming, building, and general lumbering purposes. On the low hills is much valuable oak timber; and far up in the mountains there is fine cedar, yew, and hemlock. There are not many lumbering mills and workshops for converting this timber into lumber and machinery, but there are many excellent and valuable sites for erecting mills and machine shops not yet improved, and some entirely unclaimed. The water is pure, and nearly everywhere abundant. Some farmers have to water stock from wells, but most of them have springs or streams.

For milling and mechanical purposes, the water privileges of this county are valuable and extensive. There is but little liability to damage from overflow. A few farms along the Willamette river are liable to inundation, and there is but a small portion of the land in this county that is inundated every year. Freshets never occur in the spring or summer in this county.

The Willamette river flows along the entire eastern border of the county, from south to north. The Yamhill, the Rickreal, and Luckiamute flow through the county from west to east. These streams, with their numerous tributaries, of fresh water from the Coast Range mountains, on the west, supply every part of the county with good water and plenty of it; and where it is not on top of the ground, it may be got but a few feet below its surface.

The temperature of this county is mild. Fahrenheit's thermometer, we believe, never falls below zero, nor rises more than ninety degrees in the inhabited parts of the county, and it is very rare that either of these extremes are reached.

The general health of the county is good. There is some little billious fever and ague at times along the Willamette river.

As to professional men, we have too many of them now. To tradesmen, mechanics and men of all kinds of industrial pursuits, we say, come and see, there are good openings for all. The facilities for innigrants and new settlers to obtain grain and seeds of all kinds, farming implements, mechanics' tools, provisions, clothing and groceries, are as good as in most of the old States. Merchants and traders, at convenient points all over the State, keep all these articles for sale, at reasonable prices. The principal market for the produce of this county is Portland.

We transport by the Willamette river and by wagons, a distance of from fifty to eighty miles. We have four good flouring mills and nine saw mills in this county, with a woolen factory at Ellendale.

The mineral resources of this county are still undeveloped. Gold, silver, copper, iron, and lead have been discovered in small quantities in this county, but nothing of the kind that would pay. We have some fine saline springs which would be very valuable if properly improved and managed, but as yet nothing of consequence has been done in the manufacture of salt.

There is some vacant Government land in this county, but very little of value for agricultural purposes. Some of it is valuable for stock raising, but the most of it is covered with heavy timber, and only fit for lumbering; generally handy to good water privileges for power purposes.

The advantages for schooling and meetings of religious worship in this county are good. Districts for common schools are organized in every neighborhood in the county, with a college at Monmouth, another at Bethel, and a flourishing academy at Dallas. There are good opportunities for

religious worship in almost every neighborhood—nearly every denomination of Christians as found in the Union, being represented in the county.

Dallas, the county seat, is situated on the La Creole (Rickreal) river, and is a flourishing little inland town, noted for its enterprise and commercial prosperity. There are other thriving little towns with post-offices and stores, among which we may mention Buena Vista, where large quantities of earthenware are manufactured. There are also Grand Ronde, Lawn Arbor, Luckiamute, Salt Creek, Bridgeport, Bethel, Lincoln, Etna, Monmouth, Independence, and Eola. Some of these towns have good warehouses, and are convenient shipping points along the Willamette river.

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### No. 13.

## GRANT COUNTY.

THIS county, situated in the interior of the State, and of which, comparatively speaking, so little is known, is not without its mineral and agricultural wealth of the State of Oregon, making it one of the few localities in the whole world where unsurpassed mineral wealth is so generously blended with a healthful climate and fertile soil.

The latitude of this county gives it a climate justly celebrated for imparting health and vigor to the invalid, and especially to the consumptive.

The grandeur of its mountain scenery, interspersed with numerous valleys of unsurpassed loveliness and fertility, with here and there an extensive plain of table land, dotted with small lakes of pure cold water sparkling in the summer sunbeams, when viewed from the summit of some of its lofty mountains, produces strange contrast with dreary wastes cov-

ered with volcanic debris, and dressed in the sombre hues of sage-brush gray.

This county is bounded on the north by Umatilla county, east by Union and Baker counties, south by the state of Nevada, west by Wasco and Jackson counties, and covers an area of over 10,000,000 acres. In the northeastern and eastern portions of this county, the face of the country is rough and mountainous, being broken by detached peaks of the Blue mountains. In the central and western part of the county, taking its slope northwest toward the Columbia river, are numerous small valleys of unsurpassed fertility, along the North fork, South fork, and Middle fork, of the John Day's river and their tributaries. These valleys produce the different varieties of small grain in abundance, and are particularly well adapted to the growth of wheat. Vegetables of all kinds do exceedingly well in these valleys where they have been cultivated. Melons, Indian corn, and the different varieties of small fruit can be successfully cultivated in these valleys, the climate being warmer and drier in summer than in the Willamette valley or in localities nearer the Pacific coast. The apple, pear, and plum grow very thrifty where proper care is bestowed; but the trees are young, and only in a few instances have been brought into bearing.

The hills and table lands of this part of the county are covered with very nutritious grass, called bunch grass, affording an almost inexhaustible supply of pasturage and grazing land. From the central part, the county seems to take a gradual slope toward the southwest till you reach the southern boundary of the State. The face of the country as far as explored in this locality, although in many places broken and mountainous, has extensive prairies or table lands covered with grass, and run in a southwesterly direction, a distance of more than one hundred miles. These table

lands, or prairies, are traversed their entire length by a chain of small lakes connected by channels of fresh water, commencing in the middle and eastern portion of the county and running southwest to Humboldt county, in the State of Nevada. The valley of these lakes, although between one and two hundred miles in length, seems to be an off-shoot of the Great Klamath Lake Valley, in the eastern portion of Jackson county, and is supposed to form a continuous connection with Klamath Lake Valley, Sprague's River Valley, and the great valleys of the Humboldt Basin in Nevada. These lakes are of pure fresh water, and abundantly supplied with fish, among which are the black bass and mountain trout. The names of the lakes commencing in the southwest and running to the northeast part of the county, are Grass Lake, Antelope, Christmas, Trout, Malheur, Basin, North and Middle Lakes. In the central and western part of the county are the Gold Lake and Crooked Rivers, but they are not connected with the before mentioned chain of lakes.

The valleys, prairies and table lands in this portion of the county have the appearance of being well adapted to a system of general husbandry, and especially to stock-raising, and are capable of supporting a population of many thousand inhabitants. But the Indians are troublesome in almost all parts of the county, and many localities can only be approached by the determined miner in search of the hidden treasures of the mountains, or by military force, opening the way for settlement to the hardy pioneer.

In this country the summers are short, hot and dry; the springs and falls are long, pleasant and cool; the winters are short and cold; the snows fall to a great depth in the mountains, while in the valleys that are settled, stock of all kinds will winter in good condition without grain or hay. The climate among the hills and valleys of this country is unusu-



ally healthy. A few months' sojourn among their wilds generally proves very beneficial to those afflicted with disease of the lungs; while in some instances the consumptive, to all appearance past medical aid, has received permanent relief by a year's residence in those mountains. The different varieties of timber known to Oregon, and previously noted in descriptions of other portions of the State, are sufficiently distributed through this county to answer all practical purposes for farming and mechanical use, whenever the immense mineral wealth of her mountains, the stock capacity of her hills, table lands and prairies, and the agricultural resources of her valleys are brought under the control of civilization.

The Oregon Central Military Road, designed to connect the head of the Willamette Valley with the great basin of the Klamath Lake, Humboldt and Salt Lake Valleys, passes through the southern portion of this county. The rapid approach of the Union Pacific Railroad from the east, and the Central Pacific from the west, towards these great valleys, speaks in unmistakable language the doom of those wild savages and barbarous tribes that now check the spread of civilization into this portion of the country. And although the graphic description by Longfellow of "Hiawatha," "Old Kanomis," and "Minnehaha," may awake feelings of commiseration in the minds of the dreamy poet and parlor philanthropist for the sad fate of the poor Indians, the inevitable result of the great laws of progress will be, that

" Soon on those banks so gay and green,  
Will numerous herds and flocks be seen ;  
And lasses, chanting o'er the pail,  
And shepherds, piping in the dale,  
And industry, that knows no guile,  
And hearts resolved, and hands prepared,  
The blessings they enjoy to guard."

The mineral resources of this locality are too extensive to allow of a description in detail in this work. The face of

the country gives unmistakable evidence of recent volcanic action, and mineral indications are apparent to the skillful miner in various parts of the county. Gold in placer diggings and in rich quartz lodes is being worked in a number of mining camps along the John Day's river and its tributaries; and although mining has been rendered dangerous by reason of the hostility of the savage bands of the Snake Indians, still it is estimated by persons competent to judge that the various mining camps of this county have produced over \$10,000,000 in gold within the last six years.

Good silver lodes exist in this county, also the croppings of lead, coal, copper and iron; but these last minerals have not yet been developed to any extent.

This county has an assessable property of about \$350,000, and a population of about 4,000 inhabitants. Canyon City, the county seat, is a thriving mining town of considerable importance, situated on the John Day's river, has a post office, schools, religious worship, good society. The professions are as ably represented in proportion to the number of inhabitants, as any other portion of the State. A flourishing grist mill, two or three lumber mills, and stores sufficient to supply all the necessities of a new settlement, are established in this county. A number of good farms have been opened and are being successfully worked, about nine thousand acres of land being under cultivation. The settled portions of this county may be approached from the north by a good wagon road from the Dalles, on the Columbia river at which point the enterprise of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company has furnished connection by steamboats with all the navigable waters of the State.

A mail route is established between Canyon City and the Dalles, supplied with coaches and good means of conveyance for passengers. There are wagon roads and pack trails to the various mining camps leading through portions of the county.

## No. 14.

## YAMHILL COUNTY.

THE following information and interesting description of Yamhill county was furnished the Committee on Statistics, by Hon. M. P. Deady, an early settler in this county, and a gentleman well qualified to judge of the county for which he speaks. Coming from a reliable source, the Committee take pleasure in presenting for publication the report entire.

This is one of the oldest and earliest settled counties in the State of Oregon. It comprises a part of the great Willamette Valley. It is situated between the 45th and 46th parallels of north latitude, on the west bank of the Willamette river, and about 30 miles south of Portland. It was organized as a county in 1844. Its west boundary is the summit of the Coast range of mountains. Near the south west corner of the county this range is cut through by the South Yamhill river, flowing eastwardly into the Willamette, and the Salmon river, flowing westerly into the Pacific ocean. Through this passage, a distance of about 30 miles, you can journey to the ocean with ordinary wagons, in a day. Through this pass also, all but the northern end of the county, besides much of the county of Polk on the south, is fanned by the salubrious sea breeze, which here always moderates the summer heat and the winter cold.

The name is said, by early settlers, to be a corruption of the Indian word Che-am-ill, signifying bald hills. About eight miles from the mouth of the river there is falls or rapids. Here the river flows or falls over a ledge of rocks. Above and below it for miles the river is deep. Upon this ledge the Indians crossed the stream. In sight of the ford and constituting a land mark by which it was found, there is a detached group of beautiful bald hills—that is, not

covered with timber. From these the Indians named the ford and river, and afterwards the American settlers gave the name to the county.

The explanation will serve to prevent any one from inferring from the name that this county is distinguished for "Yams."

In form, the county is nearly square, being, on an average, 30 miles from east to west, 24 miles from north to south. The south Yamhill river rises in the coast mountains near the southwest corner of the county, and runs north easterly for a distance of 25 miles, when it forms a junction with what is called the North Fork, a stream flowing from the same range of mountains in the north west corner of the county, and forms the Yamhill river proper. From thence the river flows in a north easterly course for about 10 miles, where it empties into the Willamette.

In Hines' Oregon, p. 327, written many years since by an early Oregon Missionary, the Yamhill is described as a river, "which rises in the Killamook hills towards the ocean, and after meandering for thirty or forty miles through one of the most beautiful portions of the Willamette Valley, and with its tributaries, watering the extended plains through which it flows, it rushes down a ledge of rocks a few feet, forming a beautiful cascade, and hastens to mingle its waters with those of the Willamette."

According to the report and map of Surveyor-General Applegate, of July 20, 1866, there were in this county 14 townships of land surveyed by the United States. This, in area, is equal to 504 square miles, or 322,560 acres. Nearly every acre of this land is arable, and nine-tenths of it would be rated as first-class in the best shire in England. It is owned by a thrifty, industrious farming population. A great portion of this land is under fence, and there are probably 100,000 acres under cultivation.

At the congressional election in June, 1868, the vote polled in the county amounted to 1208. Allowing five souls to the voter, the population would amount to 6048. This estimate of the population is within the mark. Nine-tenths of the inhabitants live on farms, and live by the cultivation of the soil. Families are numerous and large, and the ratio between voters and population is fully as large as in the Middle and Western States, and much larger than in other States and Territories of the Pacific coast.

All over the county wood and water of the best quality are well distributed. The climate is mild and salubrious. The larger portion of the occupied land is prairie. The county is distinguished for its agricultural products, among which are wheat, oats, potatoes, timothy, apples, horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs.

The Yamhill river is navigable for steamboats the year round as far up as Dayton, a distance of six miles: and in winter season to McMinnville, a distance of 20 miles.

Supposing one-eighth of the land under cultivation to be sown in wheat, and that it produces 20 bushels to the acre; this would give a yield of 750,000 bushels per year for this county. But the capacity of the county to produce wheat is is very great—say eight times this amount, 6,000,000 bushels; one-fifth as much as the whole State of California has produced.

This county has always been famous in the Oregon market for fine horses and fat cattle, the best of which find their way to San Francisco, through Portland. As has been remarked, the population of this county is mostly agricultural. The towns are not large. Lafayette, the shire town, is on the left bank of the Yamhill, at the ford and falls above alluded to. Dayton is below it a few miles, and on the opposite bank of the river. The other towns or county stores are Amity, Muddy, Mountain House, North Yamhill, Sheridan, West

Chehalem, Wheatland and McMinnville. The latter is a place of comparative importance and is increasing steadily in business, wealth and population. It is situated in the forks of the river on South Yamhill and in the heart of the richest and most beautiful country and landscape the eye ever rested on. A large grist mill has been in successful operation here for many years. A project is now on foot to take the water of South Yamhill to McMinnville, by a canal of some miles in length. The work looks feasible, and if carried out, it will give McMinnville the finest water power in the State. It is also confidently expected that the west side Oregon railway will pass through this place.

On the whole, there are few places that offer more or superior inducements to the farmer seeking a home, than Yamhill county.

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**No. 15.**

**LINN COUNTY.**

This county, situated on the east bank of the Willamette river, in the heart of the great Willamette Valley, when compared with other localities of the same extent of territory, is not surpassed for fertility of soil, and capacity of agricultural and manufacturing resources, by any other county in the State of Oregon, or even on the Pacific coast. Her immense shipments of flour and wheat are a sure proof of her capacity to produce that great staple of Oregon's wealth and pride, while oats, barley, beef, bacon, wool, butter, horses, and, in fact, almost all the agricultural productions of industry and wealth, give unmistakable evidence of the energy of her people and the fertility of her soil. Bounded north by Marion county, east by the Cascade mountains, south by Lane county, and west by the Willamette river,



this locality possesses advantages for exporting by water its vast agricultural productions equal to any of the interior counties of the State. From information furnished by Hon. J. H. Douthit, an old and reliable citizen of Linn county, we glean the following facts. The navigable waters of the Willamette form the river line of the western boundary of this county, a distance of about thirty-seven miles. The western portion is a level or gently undulating prairie, about forty-one miles from north to south, and an average breadth of fifteen miles from east to west. The prairie lands are frequently intersected by small rivers and creeks of pure running water, with occasional belts of timber, and comprises the most thickly populated portion of the county. The face of the country then gradually rises into hills, as you approach the eastern boundary, till you reach the summit of the Cascade mountains, covered with dense forests of fir, cedar, and pine. The hill lands are settled a distance of about ten miles eastward, and almost the entire length of the county from north to south, giving an area to the settled portion of this county of over six hundred thousand acres.

This county has three natural divisions, the first of which is that portion lying between the North and South Santiam rivers, and known as the "Forks of the Santiam." This portion of the county is again almost equally divided by the Thomas and Crabtree forks.

The following information, furnished the Committee by J. C. Dickey, Esq., relative to the natural resources and industrial wealth of this portion of Linn county, may be considered as entirely correct, as coming from a gentleman well qualified to give facts regarding that portion of country for which he speaks:

"The average price of land, improved and unimproved, in this portion of Linn county, is \$4.75 per acre; improved land, \$10 per acre; unimproved, \$3; unimproved pasture

lands, \$1.25. The general nature of the soil is rich and fruitful. For grain-growing, it is better adapted to the production of wheat and oats than any other kinds. As to stock-raising, Oregon cannot produce a better locality; while vegetables and fruit *grow just as large as you want them to*. The different varieties of timber are fir, cedar, pine, oak, ash, maple and alder, conveniently located, well adapted to farming, lumbering and general building purposes. The quality of the water is good, VERY GOOD, perhaps not surpassed in the world, and abundantly supplied by creeks from three to four miles apart only, with any amount of springs. We have but one flouring mill in this locality, where there should be eight or ten. There are plenty of mill sites here unimproved. The general health of this part of the county is good, and favorable inducements are held out to teachers, farmers, and mechanics, to settle in this place. The immigrant can easily obtain seeds, grain, farming implements and general supplies of all all kinds here, with good conveniences for schools and meetings for religious worship. There are plenty of saw-mills here, but other manufactories are scarce. This portion of the county is also believed to be rich in mineral wealth. Government land is plenty yet—there are hundreds of acres better adapted to farming purposes than much of that now settled, and for lumbering resources the world cannot beat it. In conclusion, I will say, I believe the “forks of the Santiam” is better divided with timber and water to the amount of prairie land than any other portion of Oregon.”

Scio, the commercial town of the Forks, is an incorporated city and a lively business place, but labors under the disadvantage of want of river transportation. The citizens, however, are canvassing the propriety of building a branch road from the proposed Oregon Central Railroad, at Jefferson, to connect with this place. This town has three or four dry goods stores, saddle, tin, wagon, paint, cooper, black-

smith, and boot and shoe shop; one flour mill, one church, one large school-house, one town hall, and two hotels. The Forks contain about one-third of the entire population of the county, is mostly fenced and improved, with good houses, barns and orchards, and is abundantly supplied with apples, pears, cherries, plums, and the different varieties of small fruit peculiar to the climate of this coast.

The second division of this county is embraced between the Santiam river and Calapooia creek, a stream that rises in the Cascade mountains and runs west and northwest and empties into the Willamette river at Albany. This division is, perhaps, one of the finest farming regions on the Pacific coast; is a rich, productive and almost level plain, from the river on the west to the hills on the east, an average distance of about fifteen miles; is almost entirely fenced and improved, and is held at from ten to thirty dollars per acre. A. N. Arnold, of Albany, has furnished the Committee the following items relative to this portion of Linn county:

“The general nature of the soil is a black loam with a clay subsoil, producing large crops of grain, such as wheat, oats, flax, etc., and is well adapted to stock-raising, producing both wild and tame grass in abundance. The water, for family use, is equal to that of any other portion of the State, and the climate is mild, temperate and healthy. The immigrant can obtain provisions, seeds, tools and supplies of all kinds, with which to commence life, in this locality, as readily and at as cheap a rate as in almost any of the older States. The advantages for common school education are not surpassed by any other location on this coast, good schools and school houses being established within two or three miles of each other throughout this portion of the county. Most of the different religious denominations are represented here, and meetings for religious worship are held on the Sabbath in all the thickly settled portions of this locality. The

means of transportation and marketing are equal to any other inland portion of the State, a daily line of steamers being almost constantly employed between the city of Portland and this place."

Albany, the commercial city of this division, and shire town of the county, is situated on the east bank of the Willamette, about seventy-five miles south of Portland, and is one of the most extensive shipping points south of the latter place. The town is particularly noted for its highminded and public spirited citizens, who have spared no pains to make it a place where moral, religious and educational advantages may be enjoyed, and its founders have now the satisfaction of seeing it one of the liveliest and most prosperous little inland towns in the State. A fine brick court-house, costing \$35,000; a college, costing \$8,000; a public school-house, costing \$4,500, and capable of accommodating over two hundred scholars; with four churches, capable of seating from four to six hundred people each, are among the public buildings erected within the few past years at this place; while substantial brick blocks, numerous stores of every variety of merchandise, extensive warehouses, foundries, machine shops, manufactories, and mechanic shops, of almost every variety necessary for the prosperity of a country town; two steam saw-mills, and two first-class flouring-mills, capable of grinding from three to five thousand bushels of wheat every twenty-four hours, each, add to the life and business capacity of this thriving little town. With the fact that eight schoolteachers are constantly employed in this city, and that from two to eight sermons are preached here every Sabbath, we think we are justified in the assertion that Albany, with its surroundings, is nowhere surpassed in the older States for morals, refinement and intellectual worth.

Lebanon, on the South Santiam, is situated in one of the best of agricultural districts, has a fine academy, costing

\$5,000 ; one church, three dry goods stores, blacksmith, harness, cabinet and wagon shop ; one steam saw-mill. A company is organized to bring water from the river, by ditch, to this place, which will furnish the town with one of the best and safest of mill sites for manufacturing purposes.

Waterloo, some seven miles above Lebanon, at the falls of the Santiam, has a splendid water-power, a saw and flouring mill, with stores, and mechanic shops.

North Brownsville, situated on the north side of the Calapooia, at the foot-hills, has a woolen factory, known as the Eagle Mills, one flouring mill, a tannery, two dry-goods stores, a planing mill and machine shop, one wagon shop, two blacksmiths, two saddle and harness shops, a drug store, paint shop, town hall, and one large school-house, costing \$3,500.

In this division of the county, there are (besides those already mentioned) eleven saw mills, one flouring mill, one tan-yard, and school-houses in every district, as well as many churches, and the various mechanic shops needed in each location. The hill portion of this division is well adapted to lumbering and manufacturing purposes, as well as dairying, stock-raising, fruit-growing, &c. In the foot-hills and higher mountains there is considerable vacant land valuable for fruit and stock-raising, and moderate farming, as well as good lumbering facilities. The average price of land in the hills and small valleys is about three dollars per acre.

The third division is located between the Calapooia and the south line of the county. It has an average length of about twenty-five miles, with a breadth of about twelve miles of level land, with a valley extending up the Calapooia a distance of about fifteen miles. Settlements extend for several miles back into the hills, and some of the finest timber common to the Willamette valley is found in this locality. South Brownsville, opposite North Brownsville, is situ-



ated in as good a district of farming land as is to be found in the county—has three dry-goods stores, one grocery, three churches, one hotel, a tin and blacksmith shop. Harrisburg, in the southwest corner of the county, on the Willamette river, is a considerable shipping point, with over one hundred houses and four hundred inhabitants—an academy, town hall, four dry-goods stores, a drug store, two saloons, three blacksmith shops, a cabinet, paint, cooper, and two boot and shoe shops, one livery stable, one hotel, five warehouses, and a firstclass flouring mill. A. Smith, Esq., of this place, estimates the price of farming land in the vicinity at from ten to fifteen dollars per acre. Peoria, a thriving little town, about twelve miles north of Harrisburg, on the Willamette, has three stores, with blacksmith and other mechanic shops, sufficient for the accommodation of the surrounding country. Boston Mills has several houses, a store, good water-power, and a first-class flouring mill. In this division are two steam and three water saw-mills, one carding machine, several churches, and school-houses in every district, that have not been previously mentioned.

Linn county covers an area of over 1,764,460 acres, and has probably more arable land, according to its size, than any other county in the State. This county has a population of over 8,000, and an assessable property valuation of nearly \$3,000,000, with about 100,000 acres of land under cultivation. As near as can be ascertained, the amount of land brought under cultivation in this locality has been more than doubled within the last four years. Allowing the increase in its productions to have been equal to the amount of land brought under cultivation during the same length of time, we have, for the year 1868, over 398,336 bushels of wheat, 596,790 bushels of oats, 18,084 bushels of corn, 11,156 bushels of barley, 19,108 lbs. of tobacco, 264,296 lbs. of wool, 595,790 bushels of potatoes, 107,922 bushels of



apples, 523,266 lbs. of butter, 8,852 lbs. of cheese, and 3,776 tons of hay. The grain crop of this county would probably go far above this estimate, while wool, apples, potatoes, &c., might fall short. This county is also estimated to contain about 20,000 head of cattle, 8,000 horses, 25,000 hogs, and over 50,000 sheep, from which is annually exported a large amount of beef, bacon, lard, mutton, and horses, for market.

The general geological features of this county, like other portions of the Willamette valley, give indications of a sedimentary formation, with but little of a mineral character till you approach the Cascade range of mountains. The soil along the banks of the rivers is composed of sand, vegetable matter, and various decomposed earth, and may be considered strictly alluvial, being washed by the current from above. This soil is very fertile, and produces corn, tobacco, and the various kinds of roots and vegetables, of the most luxuriant growth. The prairie lands, which compose a large portion of this county, are a dark, calcareous loam, and vegetable mold, of exceeding fine quality, and especially adapted to the production of all kinds of cereals, although roots, vegetables, fruit, and the various tame grasses flourish correspondingly well with grain. The soil is easily worked, very mellow, and but little affected with drouth. The general character of the soil of the hill lands is a reddish clay loam, of good quality, producing vegetables, fruit and grain, when cultivated, but is better adapted to grazing and stock-raising than other farming purposes.

Gold, silver and lead exist in this county in the Cascade range, but its agricultural wealth practically exceeds the mineral resources of any locality, and the people have wisely turned their attention to the cultivation of the soil.

The Oregon Central Railroad is being surveyed and located the entire length of the county, and will doubtless be in successful operation within a couple of years.

The enterprising farmers and mechanics have purchased and fitted up fair grounds in the vicinity of Albany, where annual exhibitions of industry, skill and agricultural wealth are made, that are not only an honor to the people of this county, but would do credit to any locality in the older States.

This county holds out flattering inducements to any class of immigrants wishing to locate on the Pacific coast. To the independent farmer of the Western, Middle or New England States, who has plenty of means, and wishes to avoid the biting frosts and blinding snows of winter, so prevalent there, this county, as well as the most of the Willamette Valley, offers a mild and healthful climate, pure water, the advantages of a navigable river, and a soil that for fertility and productiveness is not rived by the Connecticut, Hudson, Genesee, Mohawk or Mississippi valleys; and while land in these old States commands from one to two hundred dollars, the land of the Willamette, combining the luxuriant productiveness of the South with the health and vigor of the North, may be readily obtained at from \$1.25 to \$30 per acre. The fertility of the soil, and the ready means to turn its productiveness into cash, together with the ease with which land may now be obtained, are a sure guarantee to the young farmer with small means that, by a few years' perseverance and industry, he may place himself in independent circumstances for life, in the quiet possession of a happy home. To the mechanic, tradesman, manufacturer, or capitalist, this county seems to hold out inducements for investments that promise rich dividends and speedy returns.

## No. 16.

## BENTON COUNTY.

Benton county is bounded on the north by Polk, east by the Willamette river, which separates it from Linn, south by Lane and Douglas, and west by the Pacific ocean. Its eastern portion lying in the heart of the Willamette valley, on the upper Willamette river, about 35 miles south from the city of Salem, with its western border indented with bays and inlets along the Pacific coast, its excellent prairie, grass, and grain lands, in the eastern portion, with valuable forests of timber, good bays and harbors, fertile valleys, and valuable banks for fisheries, along its entire western boundary, and with good mill sites and water power for all kinds of manufactories, Benton has natural sources of great wealth still undeveloped, and in soil, price, climate, or adaptation to any department of industry, or any avocation in life, cannot fail to furnish the most fastidious with a satisfactory location and a desirable home. This county covers an area of 995,840 acres of land, with 3,500 inhabitants, and an assessable property of \$1,500,000. The soil of this county may be considered as consisting of three varieties. An alluvial deposit of vegetable mold along the bottoms of the Willamette and Mary's rivers and their branches. This land is very rich, and when brought under cultivation will produce grass, grain, and vegetables of the most luxuriant growth. Leaving the river bottoms, the soil of the prairies and the land along the base of the foot-hills, although perhaps, properly speaking, alluvial, has a base of clay, with a liberal mixture of silica, lime, protoxide of iron, ammonia, and sand loam, with many other ingredients favorable to the production of wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat, potatoes, turnips, and all the different varieties of garden vegetables.

The different kinds of fruit generally raised in this climate do well here, and all kinds of small fruits may be produced in abundance. The peach, Indian corn, and tobacco can be raised successfully in many localities in this county, when properly cultivated and well cared for. Grass, of the most luxuriant growth, both of the tame and native varieties, is produced in abundance, making the county well adapted to the raising of cattle, sheep, and horses, and it is but just to say here that some of the finest stock that ever honored the fair grounds of the Agricultural Society of Oregon were raised in King's Valley, Benton county. The various kinds of timber previously described and known to the State of Oregon exist in sufficient quantities in the eastern part of the county to more than supply the home demand for all kinds of lumber and fuel, while along the coast range and western portions of the county, the timber land largely predominates. The quantity of water in this county, like most all other portions of Oregon, is soft and pure, and for general domestic and mechanical purposes is abundant, being supplied by springs, brooks and running streams from the hills and Coast Range mountains, and can also be obtained by digging wells of moderate depth where not existing in living springs.

The climate in the eastern portion of the county is of about the same temperature as other parts of the Willamette Valley. In the western portion of the county the weather is not as warm in summer, or as cold in winter, the climate being tempered in a great degree by the mild sea breeze from the Pacific ocean.

The conveniences for immigrants and new settlers to procure all kinds of supplies, such as the various kinds of agricultural implements, mechanics' tools, provisions, seeds, groceries, books, stationery, clothing, etc., is as good as any person can ask or reasonably expect in this new country, the

stores through all the settlements in the different parts of the county being well supplied with these articles, at reasonable prices, and Oregon being able to boast of as extensive a supply of general merchandise, hardware and agricultural implements, in proportion to her number of inhabitants, as any State in the Union.

The facilities for marketing and converting the various industrial productions of this county into cash, are as good as could be expected in a new country like this, and far superior to the advantages enjoyed by almost any of the now thickly settled portions of the Mississippi valley, before railroad enterprise opened up the natural resources and agricultural wealth of these great States to the markets of the world. The Willamette river, forming the entire eastern boundary of this county, furnishes navigable water for river steamers more than half the year, by which means flour, wool, bacon, wheat, butter, and cheese can be shipped to Portland, a distance of about eighty-five miles, where all these articles find a ready market at remunerative prices.

The harbor on Yaquina bay, is the second seaport of importance in the State, and furnishes a point where vessels and ocean steamers can transfer produce and lumber to San Francisco, Portland, or Victoria, the Sandwich Islands, and other ports. The inducements Benton county holds out to the industrious laboring man with small means and indomitable perseverance, who desires to place himself in the possession of a comfortable home at a cost of only a few years' labor, and a sacrifice of only a few social enjoyments in a crowded city, or town, where society too often rests on a money basis, where virtuous industry in rags is made to do penance to aristocratic vice in satin, are equal to almost any other location on this coast.

To the wool-grower, her green hills and mild climate, scarcely ever requiring grain or hay for sheep, afford a good

opening for this department of industry. And to the manufacturer of that article, the ease with which the raw material may be obtained, and the increasing demand for blankets, flannels, tweeds, cassimeres, and all kinds of woolen goods, promise rich returns for all capital invested. The extensive valleys of grass, excellent stock range, and the ease with which cattle can be raised, promise a rich reward to the stock grower, for ordinary care.

The immigrant who wishes to engage in general farming, grain raising, or a system of mixed husbandry, will here find the rich soil of the Mississippi valley, impregnated with the various mineral salts, alkaline and marine deposits in soluble form, giving the soil of Oregon, and that of the Willamette valley in particular, its superior capacity for producing all kinds of grain, and especially the great staple of our country—wheat.

The lumberman can find openings for profitable investment in that great department of industry, in different localities scattered all over the county, and especially along the immense forests of cedar on the Alsea river and its tributaries, adjacent to the navigable waters of Alsea bay, where lumber can be exported in sailing vessels to any part of the world.

The excellent coal banks recently discovered in the Yaquina valley, and within reach of the navigable waters of the Yaquina river and bay, need only capital, industry, and energy to develop them into resources of immense wealth; while cod fisheries might be profitably established off the banks, and salmon and other fisheries on the rivers, inlets, and bays.

Government land can be obtained in some parts of the county, but, as a matter of course, the best lands have been taken, and the best locations selected. In the western portions of the county, on the Alsea and Yaquina bays and



rivers, there is yet Government land, well adapted to dairy purposes—the pure air and cool sea breeze being favorable to the preservation of all kinds of dairy productions in the most satisfactory manner. And the tide and overflowed lands, and also the valleys further up those streams, furnish the best of range for dairy cows, and all kinds of meat cattle.

The Siletz valley, in this part of the county, is said to be one of the finest portions, and capable of furnishing good homes for more than three hundred families. But this valley is yet occupied as an Indian reservation, and cannot be settled by whites until the Government sees fit to open it to enterprise and industry, which will probably be before many years.

The invigorating sea breeze in this portion of country furnishes a desirable retreat for the invalid in search of health; while those who wish a few months' reprieve from the feverish excitements of city life, may here find sports fit for the pen of Genio C. Scott, for rivers, creeks and mountain streams are alive with—

“The speckled trout, in springing pride,  
The salmon, monarch of the tide;  
The ruthless pike, intent on war;  
The silver pike, and mottled par.”

While elk, bear, deer, beaver, otter, mink, and a great variety of water fowls, and small game, are abundant in the mountains, valleys, bays, and rivers.

The advantages for schooling and religious worship in this county, and in part through all the settlements in Oregon, are far superior to what might reasonably be expected in so recently and sparsely a settled country as this. There are school districts organized and schools kept a part of the time during the year in all the settlements in this county; while the different religious denominations of almost every persuasion exert their influence to preserve good morals and give tone to society.

There are also seminaries and academies in this county for teaching the higher branches, among which we notice the college at Corvallis, one of the most prosperous schools in the State, where the student can obtain an academic or collegiate education of the highest order.

Corvallis, the shiretown of this county, is a place of considerable trade, and is located on the Willamette river, and occupies one of the handsomest town sites in the State. Her numerous stores, busy workshops, excellent schools, and three neat little churches, her citizens, noted for enterprise, industry, refinement and good taste, make it a place worthy the careful attention of the man of business seeking profitable investment for capital in this State.

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## No. 17.

### LANE COUNTY.

This county extends from the Pacific Ocean on the west to the Cascade Range on the east, and covers an area of 2,240,000 acres of land, a large amount of which is well adapted to grain-growing, stock-raising and general farming purposes. Lying at the head of the great Willamette Valley, and bounded north by Benton and Linn counties east of the Cascade Mountains, which separate it from Wasco county, south by Douglas, and west by Douglas and the Pacific Ocean, this county has diversity of scenery, variety of climate and soil, natural advantages for manufacturing, lumbering and agricultural developments, that are sure to soon repay the immigrant or new settler for time and capital invested within its boundaries, and render it one of the wealthiest as well as most important localities within this State.

Three of the main branches of the upper Willamette river rise in the eastern part of this county, form their junction near its center, and make the upper Willamette, thereby giving water communication by steamboat navigation as far up as Eugene City, near the center of the county, and sometimes a few miles above. Perhaps no county in the State has the face of the country more generally diversified with gently undulating prairies, gradually rolling back and breaking into long lines of low hills in either direction towards distant mountains; with other portions rising into abrupt elevations, covered with dense forests of timber, from the midst of which issue rapid creeks or mountain streams running through rich and lovely valleys, capable of furnishing industrious settlers with happy homes, than Lane county.

The McKenzie Fork, quite a large tributary of the Willamette, rises in the northeastern part of this county, runs in an almost westerly direction till within a few miles of the Willamette, then takes a northwesterly course, and enters the latter river near the center and northern line of the county. This stream and its tributaries waters some as fine farming land as is to be found in any State. Some small and other quite extensive valleys along its course are a rich, alluvial deposit of vegetable mold, capable of producing, when properly cultivated, excellent crops of corn, tobacco, onions, tomatoes and peaches, with every variety of roots and vegetables; also wheat, barley, oats and all the different kinds of small grain, together with apples, pears, cherries, plums and small fruits of every variety, and tame and wild grasses of the most luxuriant growth. This stream has also a number of natural mill sites, capable of being improved, so as to furnish some of the best of water-powers for manufacturing purposes. There are also forests of valuable timber located within its scope.

The Middle and South Forks rise in the Calapeoia Moun-

tains, within the limits of the county, and running in a north and westerly direction, form their junction a few miles south of Eugene City. What has already been said of the McKenzie can generally be claimed for these forks of the Willamette river.

The Siuslaw rises in the southern part of this county, takes a northwest and westerly direction, intersecting the Coast Range of mountains, and forms a part of the boundary line between this and Douglas county, and empties into the Pacific Ocean. This river is between sixty and seventy-five miles long, has generally a rapid current broken by frequent cascades, is not navigable, but has some good land for lumbering and farming purposes within its bounds.

From notes made by personal observation, while traveling through this county, a few years ago, together with information recently received from Wm. Smith, Esq., a gentleman who has resided there for the last twenty years, we are able to make the following report :

Lane county was first settled in the year 1846, but still contains large quantities of vacant land, well adapted to agricultural, mechanical and lumbering purposes, although settlements have been made there for about twenty-three years. The soil in the small valleys, and at the immediate foot and between the hills and mountains, is dark and porous, and formed by the admixture of decayed vegetation and a grayish clay loam. This soil is unrivaled for productiveness, but seems to be of a thirsty nature, and suffers if the summer drouth is of long duration. Along the banks of the rivers and more extended valleys, the soil is a rich alluvial deposit of decomposed earth and vegetable mold, producing grain, grass, fruit and garden vegetables, corn, roots, and in fact all the necessities and luxuries of life with unstinted hand. As you leave those bottoms, the soil of the prairies, with few exceptions, although showing strong alluvial indi-

cations, seems to be of a very fine quality, and composed of grayish, calcareous, sandy loam. These lands form a part of the great natural wheat fields of Oregon. And, although readily producing grass, fruit, and vegetables, of almost every variety, these prairie lands are especially adapted to the raising of wheat, oats, barley, flax, and every kind of small grain.

Along the spurs of the mountains and extended ranges of hills, the soil is thinner and generally of a grayish clay loam, but is susceptible of receiving a high state of cultivation, and can be made to produce grain, fruit and vegetables in abundance, although more especially adapted to grass, grazing and stock-raising purposes.

The geological features of the country denote a sedimentary formation, with more or less of mineral indications as you approach or leave the Cascade Range. Shales and a sort of argillaceous limestone are found here; also a sort of conglomerate of highly silicious compositions, which often contain shell and other sedimentary indications.

The different kinds of timber are fir, cedar, pine, hemlock, oak, ash, maple and alder, well distributed through the county, of good quality and sufficient for all lumbering purposes.

Mill sites and water-powers occur in almost all parts of the county, not only sufficient for the manufacture of lumber, but also capable of driving machinery of foundries and manufacturing establishments generally, sufficient to supply the demands of the whole State.

In regard to the climate of this county, Wm. Smith, Esq., who has resided there for twenty years, says: "The seasons are longer in Lane than in the counties below, on the Willamette river. The frosts do not come as early in the fall, nor as late in the spring; neither is there as great a liability to snow as there is farther down the valley. I have seen

vegetables killed below Corvallis six weeks earlier than in this place."

The water in this locality cannot be surpassed for purity, healthfulness and general conveniences for domestic purposes, in any part of the world. Like most all other parts of Oregon, brooks, creeks and rivulets from the mountains furnish an abundant supply, while numerous living springs along the hill-sides and in the valleys exist conveniently to a majority of all the farms.

The general health is good; fever, ague and bilious diseases are but little known.

The conveniences for communication are as good as could be expected where no railroad connections exist. A good stage road, with a daily line of coaches between Portland and Sacramento, passes through this place, while river navigation from Eugene City to Portland is had a considerable portion of the year. The Oregon Central Railroad, when completed, must come to Eugene City, and there is a railroad under contemplation, and a military road already under construction, to connect this place with the Central Pacific Railroad by the way of Humboldt Basin.

The population of the county is between six and seven thousand inhabitants, who are generally engaged in raising stock and grain. It is estimated that there is now nearly sixty thousand acres of land under cultivation. Allowing the increase of production to be equal in proportion to the amount of land brought under cultivation in the last four years, the yield for 1868 would be as follows:

Wheat, bushels.....	169,715
Barley, " .....	10,802
Oats, " .....	74,769
Corn, " .....	8,113
Apples, " .....	28,818
Potatoes, " .....	220,263
Butter, pounds .....	237,454
Cheese, " .....	15,690
Tobacco, " .....	12,888
Wool, " .....	159,715
Hay, tons .....	4,227



This county is also supposed to have about 15,000 head of cattle, 6,000 horses, 12,000 hogs, 300 mules and 60,000 sheep. Some of these estimates may be above and some a little below, but the average will not be far from the correct amount.

Eugene City, situated seventy-five miles south of Salem, at the head of navigation, on the west side of the Willamette river, is a smart business point and the shiretown of the county. Its geographical location must some day render it a place of importance in the State. The enterprising and public spirited citizens of this place have spared no pains in furnishing themselves and the surrounding country with ample means for moral, intellectual and religious instruction. An excellent academy for teaching the higher branches of science and literature has been established at this place; also good public and private schools sufficient for all educational purposes in the city. The Episcopals, Presbyterians, Catholics, Baptists and Methodists have each a church, and almost all the religious denominations are represented here. The city also has a fine, commodious court-house, warehouses, stores of every description, machine and mechanic shops of all kinds, sufficient to supply the wants of the surrounding country. The different professions are ably represented, and the city contains a population of between one and two thousand.

Springfield, a thriving little town three miles above Eugene, on the east bank of the Willamette, has stores, postoffice and shops of mechanics, with steamboat navigation a short time during the year.

The other towns in the county are Willamette Forks, Lancaster, Franklin, Long Tom, Cottage Grove, Siuslaw, Pleasant Hill and Cloverdale.

A good system of common schools is established throughout the county, school districts being organized and school

houses built in all the settlements and towns of importance in the county.

Gold placers and silver mines exist in this county. In 1864, some 758 grains of gold were taken out of different placers prospected in this county, but like most other localities in the Willamette Valley, the stock-raising and agricultural interests were sufficient to induce the people to turn their attention to these more profitable employments at home.

Extensive leads of stone-coal have also been discovered in the western part of the county.

There are thirteen saw-mills and four grist-mills in this county, with as good inducements for woolen mills, foundries, machine shops, and all kinds of manufactories as can be found on the Pacific coast.

Nothing can be more apparent than the fact that Lane county offers good inducements to the immigrant, or new settler. The climate is mild and healthy, water pure and abundant, daily communication by telegraph, mail, stage, and steamboat navigation; supplies of all kinds obtained at a reasonable figure; good conveniences for schools and meetings; the best of agricultural lands at any price from \$1.25 to \$30 per acre; and its mineral and agricultural resources but little developed, and scarcely surpassed for natural wealth on the Pacific coast.

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**No. 18.**

**DOUGLAS COUNTY.**

THIS county, located about one hundred and fifty miles south from the city of Salem, and separated from the great Willamette valley by the Calapooia mountains on its north-

ern boundary, and lying west of the Cascade mountains, and having the Rogue River mountains on its southern line, with its western border washed by the Pacific ocean, renders it a section of country somewhat isolated from what might be called the more thickly settled portion of the State in the Willamette valley, and gives it a soil, climate and commercial relations peculiarly adapted to its own location.

Extending from the Cascade mountains on the east, to the Pacific on the west, a distance of 128 miles, and covering an area of 2,240,000 acres of land, this county excels, in natural resources of wealth, any one of the New England States.

The climate of this county, although mild and temperate, and resembling in a great degree that of the Willamette valley, has a peculiar blending of the balmy mildness of the sunny South, with the bracing mountain air of the snowy Alps, and is rendered doubly delightful by a pure, healthy sea breeze sweeping up the entire length of the Umpqua valley, though a gap in the mountains along the Pacific coast.

In fact, the mountains by which this county is surrounded, impart from their snow capped peaks a bracing freshness to the air, which, mingled with a continuous sea breeze in summer, is not surpassed for health and loveliness in any Italian clime. The face of the country in this county, although known as the Umpqua valley, bears a stronger resemblance to the "Switzerland of America," New England, than any other locality within the State.

This valley, containing over one million acres of arable land, is uneven, undulating, and by some would be called hilly. Although this area is in fact the geographical valley of the Umpqua river, still the general appearance of the country is that of a succession of elevations and small valleys of exceeding fertility, watered by numerous springs and rivulets from the adjacent hills and mountains, and affording

to the careful observer unmistakable evidence of the productive capacity of its virgin soil.

The soil of this county, although showing unmistakable signs of recent formation, having fossils, shells and ligamentous petrifications, may be divided into four general classes, viz: 1st. a very fine quality, embracing the great majority of prairie lands of this county, composed of grayish, calcareous marl and sand loam. This variety is very productive, mellow and easily worked, is but little affected by the drouth, and produces wheat, rye, oats, barley, and all the varieties of small grain in abundance. 2d, an alluvial deposit along the banks of the creeks and rivers, of sand, decomposed earth and vegetable mould. This variety is of exceeding fertility, producing tobacco, Indian corn, melons, peaches, and all the different variety of roots and vegetables of the most luxuriant growth. 3d, a rich black soil, formed by marl clay loam, and a liberal mixture of vegetable mold. This soil is very productive, and is found along the base of the high hills and mountains, and in the small valleys in their immediate vicinity. 4th, a thin brown or drab clay loam, with a light mixture of decomposed vegetable matter and sand. This variety exists along the spurs of the mountains and extended ranges of hills, produces good grass, is well adapted to grazing purposes and especially adapted to the raising of sheep. The different varieties of timber in this county are the fir, cedar, ash, oak, cotton-wood, maple and alder. A beautiful evergreen called the myrtle grows in this valley, from which may be manufactured furniture of the finest kind. This timber is capable of receiving a finish equal to bass wood or mahogany, and the young trees when planted for shade or ornamental purposes, are not surpassed for elegance or beauty by any brought from a foreign State. The wild plum and grape, peculiar to this valley, and a variety scarcely known to any other portion of Oregon, with the beautiful

shrub known as the flowering honeysuckle, are found in their native splendor along the banks of many a mountain stream.

The water is pure, soft and abundant for all domestic uses, and for mechanical and manufacturing purposes. Some of the water privileges deserve particular notice. On the middle fork, or the main Umpqua river, is a mill site of almost unlimited power. This water power is in the central portion of the county, near the town of Winchester, on the great thoroughfare or stage road between northern Oregon and California, and where a railroad will have to pass, if ever one is built from Oregon to California.

Thos. Smith, Esq., a reliable citizen in this county, speaking of this water power, says, "during a residence of twenty-one years in Oregon, mills and machinery of any kind would have been perfectly safe from freshet, and this site will be given to any company of men, who will improve it for manufacturing purposes." This valley is watered and drained by the Umpqua river, a stream of considerable importance, with large tributaries rising in the mountains, in opposite directions in the country, runs in a westerly direction a distance of between one and two hundred miles and discharges its water into the Pacific ocean. The river is navigable a distance of about 30 miles, has a good harbor at its mouth capable of admitting sailing vessels and ocean steamers, and is the chief channel through which the supplies of this county are received. The conveniences for marketing produce are not as good as in many other portions of the State. Hauling has to be done to Scottsburg, at the mouth of the Umpqua river, on wagons, a distance of 50 miles. But the farmers are chiefly engaged in raising horses, sheep and cattle, which find a ready market in California and many other portions of this State.

The price of farming land varies from three to ten dollars per acre, according to location and value of improvements.



A few parcels of choice river bottom have been sold as high as \$15 per acre. Government and Shoal land can be obtained at from \$1 25 to \$2 00 per acre; but all things considered, the immigrant would probably do better to purchase land already owned in the settlements, at present ruling rates. The people of this county, as in almost all other portions of Oregon, have made liberal provisions for educational and religious instruction. At Yoncalla, in the northern part of the county, is an Academy and building for religious worship. At Oakland, twelve miles further south, is another fine building used for the same purpose. Ten miles south of Oakland, at Wilbur, is another Academy, founded by the Rev. J. H. Wilbur in 1854, and in which religious worship is held every Sabbath. There is also another church at this place, owned and occupied by the Methodist church South. At Roseburg, eight miles further south, are four churches, one Academy, and one Masonic Hall; there is also another Masonic Hall at Oakland. School Districts, with schools, are organized in all the settlements of the county.

Flour mills, lumber mills, machine shops, wagon shops, blacksmiths, merchants, business of all kinds, trading posts and stores are located at convenient points throughout the county. In fact the immigrant from the crowded city or densely-populated farming districts of the East will find all the necessities of life as abundantly supplied in this locality, at as reasonable a price, according to the number of inhabitants and extent of territory, as in any of the older States, with the high minded generosity of the South, the warm-hearted liberality of the West, and the intellectual refinement and good taste of the East, combined in a marked degree in the character of the people.

This county is also rich in mineral wealth, having good placer gold mines on Coffee Creek, Cow Creek, and the middle fork of the Umpqua river; and gold in paying quantities

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has lately been found on Myrtle Creek, and about one hundred miners are now working the placers. A good coal bank exists on the North Umpqua; also extensive lime quarries on Calapooia, Cow and Roberts creeks. A number of sulphur and soda springs are in this county; and also three salt springs, from one of which is being manufactured salt of a superior quality; but these springs are not fully developed, and the extent of their capacity is not known. There is also an extensive quarry of brown sandstone, furnishing a beautiful material for building purposes.

The small rivers, creeks and mountain streams are bountifully supplied with fish, among which are the chub, sucker and speckled trout. Shell-fish abound along the coast, and salmon fisheries are established to a considerable extent along the waters of the Umpqua near its mouth.

There is quite an extensive business in the lumber trade carried on near tidewater, forests of excellent timber for that business being abundant.

The county has about 4,000 inhabitants, with an assessable property of nearly \$1,400,000, and between twenty-five and thirty thousand acres of land under cultivation.

Roseburg, the county seat, is a thriving little town, about 150 miles south of Salem, on the stage road from Portland to Sacramento. Has an academy, four churches, Masonic and Odd Fellows' hall, public schools, and contains about 500 inhabitants.

The other towns in this county are Scottsburg, Yoncalla, Wilbur, Oakland, Umpqua City, Pass Creek, Low Grove, Canyonville, Galesville, Gardner, Kellogg's, and Myrtle Creek.

The county has a good stage road leading through its center, and can be approached from San Francisco by way of the Pacific ocean and Umpqua river, or by land from the north or south by stage or wagon road.

A careful analysis of the resources of wealth nature has placed within the bounds of Douglas county shows it to be a location of no ordinary importance, and confirms the statement already made, that this county contains greater natural resources of wealth than any one of the six New England States; for if either of these States alone contained mines of gold, coal, lime, and building stone, a sea coast with safe harbor, navigable rivers and valuable fisheries, extensive forests of pine, cedar and fir timber, with trees from one to two hundred feet without a limb, and three to eight feet in diameter, water powers of almost unlimited capacity, free from the effects of frost in winter and dangerous freshets in fall or spring; nearly a million acres of arable land, composed of hills, valleys and rolling prairies of unsurpassed fertility, and capable of producing grass, grain, fruit, roots and vegetables to an almost unlimited extent;—if either of those States, like this one county, contained all these natural resources combined, the writer of this article was unable to learn it during a residence there for a period of over thirty-five years.

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#### No. 19.

### JACKSON COUNTY.

THIS county, like Douglas, situated in an extensive basin of unsurpassed fertility and loveliness, seems to have been supplied by nature with all those inherent elements that tend to render a community independent of other localities, and capable of supplying a dense agricultural, manufacturing and mining population with all the luxuries of independence, contentment and wealth. Bounded on the north by the

Rogue river mountains, which separate it from Douglas and Grant, east by Grant county on the line of the 120th parallel of west longitude, south by the Siskiyou mountains, on the 42d parallel of north latitude, dividing it from California, and west by the Coast Range mountains and Josephine county. This county would seem to the casual observer or stranger to be an almost isolated location, cut off from communication with the outer world. But the energetic miner, the industrious farmer, and the hardy pioneer were not to be intimidated by any trivial obstacles in the way of opening a communication with a valley where nature has lavished her wealth with so liberal a hand. Bridges have been constructed, passes surveyed and roads graded through all the different ranges of mountains with which this lovely valley is surrounded; and Jackson county is now provided with good roads and means of communication with Portland on the north and Sacramento on the south, by a daily line of stages and mail coaches running between these two places. The enterprising citizens of this county have also opened a wagon road by which the immigrant from the plains can come by the way of Humboldt, Goose Lake and Klamath Lake route from the east. Pack trails and wagon roads have also been opened westward, through the Coast Range mountains to Port Orford and other points along the Pacific coast.

This county has an assessable property valuation of nearly one and a half million dollars, covers an area of about 9,000,000 acres of land, and has a population of between 5,000 and 6,000. The mineral resources of this county are too celebrated throughout all parts of the country to require any lengthy description in this place. The immense quantities of gold taken from the placer diggings annually for the last eight years, with the numerous quartz lodes of inexhaustible wealth, give unmistakable proof of the capacity of her gold mines, and render it a county of importance not only

to the State of Oregon, but also worthy of high consideration in the financial circles of the whole United States. These gold mines annually furnish profitable employment to a great number of men, yielding handsome dividends on the amount of capital invested and the number of men employed. New discoveries of gold are annually being made in this county, and with the knowledge that iron, coal, silver, lead and copper also exist here, it is but fair to infer that mining in this locality is but just in its infancy. Valuable mineral springs also exist in this county, from some of which a superior article of salt has been manufactured for a number of years, and is now taking precedence in many of the markets of Southern Oregon and Northern California. These springs are capable of yielding an almost unlimited supply of salt, if properly developed and worked to their full capacity.

Timber of all kinds known to Oregon, and of the finest quality for fuel, fencing, building, and general lumbering purposes, is conveniently distributed through all sections of the county, with water power and mill sites of sufficient capacity to drive the machinery for the milling and manufacturing purposes of an entire State.

The face of the country in this county is diversified with lofty mountains and extended ranges of hills, from whose summits may be seen extensive valleys, through which Rogue River and its numerous tributaries, like silver threads, seem interwoven in a maze of wild, enchanting loveliness. These valleys, as they roll back from the centre in gentle, undulating swells, or break into abrupt elevations, extending their long lines in either direction toward lofty mountain ranges in the distance, covered with immense forests, form a basin apparently encircled with mountains, and known as the Rogue River Valley.

The general geological character of the county bears strong

indications of volcanic action, scoriaceous and trapean masses occurring in many places in the eastern part. Still there is often found in this valley a sort of conglomerate silicious composition, which often contains shells and other indications of sedimentary formation.

At the intersection of the Coast Range mountains by Rogue river, sand stone prevails, and the strata remains uninterrupted, except at long intervals. The soil along the creeks and river bottoms and thro' the valley is very fertile, being an alluvial deposit of sediment, decomposed earth and vegetable mold. These valleys, when cultivated, produce all kinds of cereals in perfection; also, roots, vegetables, Indian corn, tobacco, and all the varieties of fruit known to the climate of Oregon. The plateau, or more elevated portions, have a moderately rich soil, whose chief component parts are silica and a brownish gray mixture of decomposed vegetable, clay and sand loam. These lands, where cultivated, have proven very productive, and are nowhere excelled for their capacity to raise wheat. This entire valley seems particularly adapted to stock-raising—its hills, prairies and valleys affording an almost unlimited supply of pasturage, where stock of all kinds fatten and thrive with but little care, seldom requiring extra feed, and in those instances not more than two or three months in the year. The climate, similar to that of the same altitude in other portions of the State, is mild, even and temperate, but not so humid as in the Willamette valley, the extremes of cold seldom falling below zero or that of heat rising to one hundred degrees above.

The water is pure, soft and abundant, being supplied by springs, brooks and rivulets from the mountains, while the numerous cascades along Rogue river and its tributaries furnish motive power in abundance for every variety of machinery.

In regard to the health of this county, there can be but



one conclusion formed. A locality with pure running water, and the facilities for enjoying a climate in summer fanned by a gentle sea breeze, or by altitude to inhale the bracing air of perpetual snow, must impart strength and vigor to the invalid and insure to the man of health a hale old age. The facilities for marketing are confined principally to the various mining camps in this portion of Oregon and Northern California, where fruit, vegetables, flour, bacon, beef, butter and cheese find a ready market at remunerative prices.

Liberal provisions for schools and religious instruction have been made—the generous hearted and industrious miner being generally ready to contribute to the establishment of good society as liberally as any other class of men within the State. Flouring mills, lumber mills and all kinds of mechanical industry are established and carried on in the various settlements in this valley. Also, stores, well supplied with agricultural implements, miners' and mechanics' tools, and with a general assortment of merchandise, where the immigrant or new settler can obtain supplies of all kinds at reasonable prices.

The price of farming land is from five to ten dollars per acre, and there are now about 15,000 acres under cultivation. Good government land for grazing or agricultural purposes can be obtained in many portions of the county.

A woolen mill is now in successful operation at Ashland, making up the products of the flock into articles for bedding and clothing, suitable to the wants of the community. The water-power at Ashland is splendid. There are at this place a flouring mill, machine shop, marble factory, a woolen mill, and two lumbering mills. The character of the goods manufactured here does credit to our manufacturing establishments. The marble is of excellent quality, and is found near by.



Jacksonville, the county seat, is a flourishing town, with good public and private schools, a number of churches belonging to the various religious denominations, mechanic shops, stores, hotels, a postoffice, fine private residences, and all the different business establishments, sufficient to render the town pleasant and prosperous. There is a number of other thriving towns in this valley, with stores, postoffices, and other business operations. Among them are Ashland, Willow Springs, Applegate, Grant's Pass, Bark Point, and Phoenix.

The creeks and rivers abound with fish, among which are the salmon, chub, sucker, and mountain trout. Bear, elk, antelope, deer, and many kind of small game are found in this locality; also, a great variety of wild birds and water fowls, peculiar to the western slope of the Rocky mountains.

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## No. 20.

### JOSEPHINE COUNTY.

This county is situated in the southern part of the State, and bounded north by the Rogue River Mountains, which separates it from Douglas, east by Jackson county, south by California, and west by Curry county, and covers an area of about 2,500 square miles.

The face of the country is hilly and in some parts mountainous, interspersed with vallies of rich alluvial soil. Its geological features have both volcanic and sedimentary indications with quartz lodes of gold, silver, copper, and other mineral deposits, showing to the experienced miner a district of great mineral wealth. The soil of this county is very productive when properly cultivated, and well repays the husbandman for his toil. This county has between one and

two thousand inhabitants, with between five and six thousand acres of land under cultivation, and an assessable property valuation of about \$250,000. Kerbyville, situated on the Illinois River, the shiretown of this county, is a lively business place, with postoffice, stores, mechanic shops and other public buildings necessary for a flourishing country town. The other towns of importance in this county are Leland, Slate Creek, and Waldo.

The following description of this county furnished the committee by Dr. Watkins, an eminent practicing physician in that county for quite a number of years, is a perfectly reliable statement of facts :

Josephine county, in the southwestern portion of the State attracted attention as early as 1852, as a locality for placer gold mining. The first mining of any importance was on Josephine Creek, which derived its name from a daughter of one of the miners, and afterwards gave name to the county. In the Spring of 1853 there was a great rush to the mines on Althouse Creek, which rises in the Siskyon Range, and runs in a northerly direction, uniting with other tributaries forming Illinois river. The diggings on Althouse were very rich, the bed of the stream, paying not only heavily but quite uniformly. At one time Adams & Co's. books had a thousand names to obtain letters for in the different localities, where miners had previously resided. Sailor diggings was then a famous locality, a ditch was dug some fifteen miles long at a cost of some seventy-five or eighty thousand dollars to bring water to the rich placers of this vicinity, and when fairly under way paid for itself the first year. It paid heavy dividends to its stockholders for ten or twelve years, and many parties who live sumptuously every day owe their fortune to their connection to the Sailor Diggings Ditch Company.

Sucker Creek, a tributary of Illinois river a large turbu-

lent mountain stream, was extensively mined from 1854 to 1860, but the diggings are deep, the boulders are large and unwieldy, the stream an unmanageable one, and I think never made an adequate return for the labor expended, but Sucker Creek has never had its day, and with cheaper labor and better facilities, it will yet yield a golden harvest to the hand of adventure.

Canyon Creek, Illinois River and Galice Creek were mined during these years, and generally with an adequate return for labor expended.

Williams Creek, a tributary of Applegate Creek, has had for the last few years a hardy mining population, who have met with a moderate return. Josephine is a mining county, and has had all the vicissitudes of such a county. Her citizens leading a roving life, and having little to bind them to the soil mostly left during the Indian war in 1855-6. Her rich minerals brought back to her a renewed population, however, but the great Frasier River excitement nearly depopulated her, and now she is only the shadow of her former self. But, her rich placers are far from being exhausted. There are rich veins of copper running into her hills. The most noticeable one, of bronze, some eight or ten feet in thickness, in the hills between Waldo and Althouse, but for some reason attempts to work it have failed, although it appears to be of great purity and inexhaustible in quantity. But the copper mines down Illinois River, will yet make this locality famous, the copper is found in well defined lodes, and practically inexhaustible. The question is one of transportation.

Platter & Beach have been running a tunnel for the last three years, through a heavy divide, to turn the waters of Althouse, so as entirely to drain the bed of Althouse Creek. Hanson & Co., have done the same at another point, and are now striking it rich. These two operations have opened a

district of great mineral wealth, and which will awaken the old times in placer gold mining on Althouse. The returns of the Malachi quartz lode have been very heavy, I see by the telegraphic dispatches that this property has been purchased by a San Francisco house, who are pursuing their enterprise with vigor.

Though this county is chiefly a mineral county, yet it has many quiet nooks and pleasant valleys which generously reward the husbandmans toil. Fruits flourish as well as in any portion of Oregon, and peaches do much better than in the Willamette valley. The whole county is well wooded with the various firs and pines, the most notable, for majesty, as well as usefullness, is the lofty sugar pine. Groves of oak are scattered about over the valleys, resembling in the distance, some old orchard, and nearer by furnishing the most delightful resorts for a quiet drive or a brisk canter. To judge by my own feelings, I should say that the climate for pleasantness and salubrity, could not be excelled. The quiet calm of her valleys, the grandness of her mountains, the healthful influences of her June air, and the cool fresh water of her mountain streams, all combine to make Josephine county a desirable place for residence, but, she lacks those attractions which bind men to the soil. She is isolated and shut in by great mountain canions. She is dependent for supplies upon a slow, laborous and costly transportation over the coast range of mountains.

Schools, churches, associations, do not take kindly in such a community as hers, and perhaps above all she has the inherent vice of all mining communities, that for every dollar taken from her mineral deposits she is one dollar poorer. There is no accumulation, there is no heaping up by one generation for the generation which is to follow. She sows that others may reap.

## No. 21.

## COOS AND CURRY COUNTIES.

THESE counties, situated in the southwest part of the State, on the Pacific ocean, are so nearly alike in their soil, climate, and general resources, that the Committee have thought best to give a general description of both under the same head.

The united area of these counties is 2,132,000 acres, their population about 1,300, and their united assessed property valuation \$364,083. The estimated amount of land under cultivation is between five and six thousand acres.

The following statement is made by Ex-Gov. A. C. Gibbs, who has traveled over the country, and is familiar with its character and resources:

CURRY COUNTY is the southwestern county in the State, and includes Cape Blanco, the most western point of land in Oregon, at which point a light-house is to be erected during the present year. The Pacific ocean forms the western boundary of the county. This section is generally hilly and broken, and mostly covered with timber, though there is a number of very rich prairies and valleys. Some of the prairies extend for a number of miles up and down the coast, and are covered with a heavy growth of nutritious wild grass. There are other prairies further back. The soil is rich, even to the tops of the hills. The timber is fir, spruce, alder, oak, soft maple, and white and red cedar. The white cedar is the best finishing lumber to be found on the coast, and while it has been a leading article of export for twelve years or more, still the supply is abundant, though lumbermen have to go further back to obtain it. It is common to find a cedar tree extending over a hundred feet without a knot or limb. It finds a ready market in California, the Sandwich Islands, and even China. All kinds of grain (excepting corn), as well



as vegetables, are adapted to this section. The moisture from the ocean renders this county, like all others west of the Coast range of mountains, better adapted to grazing than the country in the interior of the State. There is also less rain in winter west of the Coast Range than there is between the Coast Range and the Cascade mountains. The weather is also milder in winter.

Large bands of elk are frequently seen. During the early settlement of the prairies along the coast, it was common to see twenty or thirty elk in a drove, grazing together. Deer are still abundant.

At the mouths of the Coquille and Rogue rivers are harbors that have been used by small vessels, to some extent. At Port Orford there is good anchorage, and a roadstead well protected, excepting from the southwest. This is the principal shipping port, and steamers frequently stop in on their way up and down the coast. Coal, copper, silver, and gold are found at different places. Gold mining has been found remunerative in many places, principally however along the coast just above the summer tide line, or where the sea has receded, in the sand. These mines are inexhaustible, as the high tides and seas of winter bring a fresh supply of sand mixed with dust, for the coming summer's work. The copper mines and quartz ledges will be worked to advantage at some future day. Recent developments of quartz ledges are said to be very flattering. Considerable capital is required to work such mines successfully.

Besides the rivers named, there are several smaller streams putting into the ocean, in all of which, in the spring and fall, large quantities of the finest salmon may be easily caught. They are a staple article of food at home, and are already becoming an article of export, and the business of exporting them will largely increase as the art of preserving them fresh in cans is better understood. Cod and other fish are



also caught with hook and line at Port Orford. There are also banks near the mouth of Rogue river where codfish may be caught. Much of the timbered country is easily cleared during the long, dry summers, and thus the best of farms are made along the streams, even where there are no prairies. Bees have been imported, and do remarkably well, and the honey is better than that gathered on the large prairies in the interior.

There is a road from Crescent City, California, up the coast to the mouth of Umpqua river; also from Port Orford back into the Umpqua valley. Another leads from tide water on the Coquille river to Roseburg.

COOS COUNTY.—All that has been said in relation to climate, soil, timber, and products of Curry county, applies equally well to Coos, which bounds it on the north.

Coos Bay is the leading seaport in southern Oregon. Empire City, about four miles from its mouth, is the county-seat. There is a number of steam saw mills on the bay, doing a large and thriving business.

Spruce and other timber has been found of a superior quality for ship-building. A number of vessels have been built at Simpson's mills, and it is believed there is no other place in the United States where as good vessels can be built for less money. There are extensive coal fields very near the bay, which have been successfully worked for over ten years. The principal market for coal is in San Francisco, where the Coos Bay coal is said to command a better price than any other found on the Pacific coast. These extensive coal beds add greatly to the commercial interest of the bay, and wealth of the county. There are rich gold mines in the southern part of the county, and indications of silver, copper, and iron are seen.

Congress made a grant of land for the construction of a wagon road from tide-water on Coos river, to Roseburg, in

Douglas county, and a joint-stock company has begun the work. With this road completed, Coos Bay will command the trade of Umpqua and part of Rogue river valleys.

A greater variety of fish is found in the bay than at any other place in the State. That fact, though not fully appreciated at present, adds greatly to the prospective wealth of the county.

These two counties are distinguished for their living springs and streams of pure, cold water, and the general good health of the country. Those in search of either, need look no further.

# GENERAL REVIEW.

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## BOUNDARIES.

In giving the geographical boundaries of this State, we quote from the recent report of the Commissioners of the General Land Office.

Oregon has California on the south, and Washington Territory on the north, extending from the Pacific ocean to Snake river, the latter constituting a part of its eastern boundary. It is 350 miles long, from east to west, and 275 miles from north to south, containing 95,274 square miles, or 60,975,360 acres, being about half as large as the State of California.

The Coast Mountains and the Sierra Nevada traversing California continue northward through Oregon. The latter, after leaving California, are called the Cascades. Near the southern boundary, the chain throws off a branch called the Blue Mountains, which extend northeastwardly through the State, passing into Washington and Idaho Territories.

The course of the Cascades through the State is generally parallel with the shore of the Pacific, with an average distance therefrom of about 110 miles. In California, the direction of the Coast Mountains and coast valleys is that of a general parallelism with the seashore, the mountains sometimes approaching close to the shore and then receding from it, leaving belts of arable land between them and the ocean. In Oregon, the Coast Range consists of a series of high lands, running at right angles with the shore, with valleys and rivers between, and the numerous spurs having the

numerous spurs having the same general direction as the high lands.

### PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

In a prize essay, written by W. Lair Hill, Esq., for the Oregon State Agricultural Society, the physical geography of this State is thus described :

“All the country in North America lying west of the Mississippi river has a common axis of elevation, which is the great chain of the Rocky Mountains, and their southern continuation, the Cordilleras of Mexico. The Sierra Nevada range, with its northern extension, the Cascade Mountains of Oregon and Washington Territory, constitute a secondary axis, which materially affects the entire country of the Pacific coast, both in soil and climate. To the volcanic forces of these two great central lines of subterraneous commotion is originally due the physical geography of Oregon. It is generally known that the Rocky Mountain range is chiefly of igneous composition. Some portions of this range are of plutonic character, while some bear unmistakable evidence that their upheaval was prior to the process of consolidation. Sandstone abounds in many places in these mountains, and very considerable silurian deposits are also found. Gold-bearing rocks occur in various localities. Where sedimentary rocks are found, they are frequently regular in their stratification; generally, indeed, distorted from their original position, but nevertheless retaining perfectly their stratified character. These rocks are usually interlaid with micaceous slate, and rest on masses of granite and gneiss. Mica is so abundant in some places that it may be found in extremely thin flakes in all the water of the mountain streams. Of the same general character is the geological structure of the Cascade range, except that there is less of stratified rocks, and stronger indications of recent volcanic action are observed.

Basaltic or granitic rocks constitute the geological base of the country. Slate and other argillaceous rocks, and a sort of irreducible limestone, also characterize the western slope of the continent. Metamorphic features become more marked the nearer we approach the Pacific coast, until arriving at the Cascade range this character is seen in its most clear and unmistakable aspect. Certain differences between the soil and vegetation on the east and those on west side of this second volcanic axis of the country may, it is thought, be satisfactorily explained by atmospheric or meteorological peculiarities, so that the upheaval of this ridge, notwithstanding these differences, was probably cotemporaneous with that of the Rocky Mountains, or at least at no earlier date. Whether this be so or not, it is certain that the Cascade Range has undergone much more recent convulsions, and indeed, of the numerous vents standing along the summit line, some might be properly classed at present as active volcanoes.

“Between the Cascade and Rocky Mountain chains, the country is composed of immense plateaux, interspersed with numerous unconnected mountain ridges of recent volcanic origin. Some of these are covered with immense forests, while others are merely sterile masses of trappean rocks, piled together in rugged heaps by the elevatory force of internal fires.

“By some of these less noted elevations, and by spurs projecting from the two named ranges, the broad table lands above mentioned are divided into three valleys, or rather basins, namely:

“The Utah basin, centering at Great Salt Lake, but having many undulations, forming minor geographical centers, to which its rivers flow and disappear in the sandy plains, or discharge their currents into inland lakes. This basin has no outlet to the sea.

“The Klamath basin, lying to the northwest of the Utah, and drained by the Klamath river, running to the Pacific ocean, and the river Dechnutes, emptying into the Columbia.

“The Columbia river basin extends over a vast area of country, including all that portion of Oregon lying east of the Cascade Mountains, and known as Eastern Oregon, except the small surface occupied by the Klamath, a part of which is in California, and an almost equally small portion of the Utah basin, which lies principally in Utah Territory.

“Eastern Oregon, besides containing several large lakes, is traversed by numerous rivers, but none are navigable except the Columbia and Snake or Lewis rivers, which two streams, however, afford facilities for steamboat travel from the ocean across the whole extent of the State in its greater dimensions from west to east.

“That portion of the State lying west of the Cascade Mountains, is divided into three principal valleys, the Willamette, the Umpqua, and the Rogue River, drained by the rivers bearing these respective names. This country is quite different from Eastern Oregon, in respect to its physical geography, geology and climate.”

### SUBDIVISIONS.

This State has been divided into twenty-two counties, the general features of which have already been described.

### NAVIGABLE RIVERS.

As the facilities for intercommunication by steamboat navigation is of great importance to any community, we give the following facts relative to the navigable rivers of this State. The accompanying data was furnished to J. Ross Browne, by Captain J. C. Ainsworth, President of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company, and published by the U. S.



Treasury Department in an official report of the mineral resources of the Pacific coast :

“The Columbia, Willamette, Snake river and Pen d’ Oreille or Clark’s fork, are the four principal navigable rivers, to which may be added the names of rivers navigated for short distances during the season of high water, as follows: Cowlitz river, emptying into the Columbia; Yamhill, Tualitin, and Santiam, emptying into the Willamette; and Clearwater, emptying into the Snake river. All these rivers have been and are now being successfully navigated by steamers.

“The Columbia is the principal river, is obstructed at different points by falls and rapids of such a character as to prevent its continued navigation. This great river is divided into four navigable sections. The first is from its mouth to the Cascades, a distance of 160 miles. As far up as the mouth of the Willamette it is a broad, deep river, navigable at all seasons by the largest vessels that cross the bar at its mouth. The obstruction to navigation at the Cascades is of such a character as to make a portage of six miles necessary. This portage is now made by means of a railroad, stocked with excellent locomotives and cars. The second section of the Columbia is from the Cascades to Dalles City, a distance of fifty miles, through the Cascade range of mountains. Here is another obstruction to navigation, known as the great *dalles* (rapids) of the Columbia. This makes a second portage necessary, and is at present accomplished by means of fourteen miles of railway, equal in character to the road at the Cascades. The third section of the Columbia reaches from the Dalles, or Celilo, to Priest’s rapids, a distance of 185 miles. From Priest’s rapids to Fort Colville, a distance of about 100 miles, the river is so frequently obstructed with rapids that the navigation has never been attempted. Beyond Fort Colville, for a distance of 250 miles into British

Columbia, this great river is navigable, and is now being navigated by an American steamer of about one hundred tons capacity.

"Snake river empties into the Columbia about twelve miles north of old Fort Walla Walla, and is navigable as high up as Lewiston, in Idaho, a distance of 160 miles. From this point, in ascending Snake river, you go almost due south, and for an additional distance of 150 miles little or nothing is known of the river, except that it passes through a chain of high mountains, and is so obstructed with rapids and falls as to make navigation impossible; but above this chain of mountains, continuing in a southerly direction, the river is navigable a distance of 150 miles. A fine steamer, of two hundred tons capacity, is now on this section of the river, and has succeeded in reaching a point within thirty miles of the Great Salmon Falls. By the use of this boat, and the navigation of Salt Lake, which is said to be practicable, the land travel from Great Salt Lake City to Portland, Oregon, would be reduced to about 400 miles.

"Pen d'Oreille river, or Clark's Fork of the Columbia, is navigable from the foot of Pen d' Oreille lake to the mouth of Jako, a distance of 225 miles. Three fine steamers are now running from the foot of the lake to Thompson's falls, a distance of about 150 miles. Two short portages, of less than seven miles in all, are made to connect these boats. One more boat above Thompson's falls will enable the traveler to reach a point within 125 miles of Fort Benton, on the Missouri river.

"The distance from the main Columbia to the Pen d' Orielle lake is 100 miles, over a good wagon road. Thus the navigable waters of the Columbia and Missouri rivers are only separated by 360 miles of land travel, which can be reduced, by adding a fourth boat on Clark's Fork, to 285 miles.

"The Willamette river is navigable from its mouth to Eu-

gene City, a distance of about 200 miles. The only obstruction to the navigation of this river is a forty-foot fall at Oregon City, making a portage of one mile necessary." Since the foregoing was written, the People's Transportation have constructed a steamboat basin above the falls, so that freight is now passed through their warehouse, a distance of only a few hundred feet.

"There are in all some thirty steamers navigating the waters above named, with an average carrying capacity of about one hundred and twenty-five tons each, and employed as follows: Semi-weekly from Portland to Astoria, tri-weekly from Portland to Monticello, daily from Portland to Dalles City, tri-weekly from Dalles to Wallula, semi-weekly from Wallula to Lewiston, once a week from Fort Colville to La Porte in British Columbia, daily from the foot of Pen d' Oreille to Cabinett on Clark's Fork, once a week from Cabinett to Thompson's Falls, daily from Portland to Fort Vancouver, twice a day from Portland to Oregon City, semi-weekly from Oregon City to Corvallis, once a week from Oregon City to Eugene, and tri-weekly from Oregon City to Yamhill river.

"In addition to these regular routes, there are several small steamers and propellers that run as business offers. The number of passengers and amount of freight carried on the different routes is very difficult to ascertain; but from the secretary of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company I have obtained a statement of freight and passengers transported on the Columbia river from 1861 to 1864, inclusive:

	Passengers.	Freight.
1861.....	10,500....	6,290
1862.....	24,500....	14,550
1863.....	22,000....	17,646
1864.....	36,000....	21,834

"The freight thus shipped was all up-freight, and intended for supplies for the military posts east of the Cascades, and

for the different mining camps of Idaho, Washington and Eastern Oregon. As late as 1860, the principal business on the Columbia river was the transportation of troops and supplies of the vast Indian country east of the Cascades. The mineral developments made at a subsequent date in that vast section of country, extending from latitude 42 to 56 degrees north, and from the Cascade Range to the Bitter Root and Rocky Mountains, have been the means of inducing permanent settlements in several of the rich agricultural districts that lie in different parts of this country; the result of which is that the military are now supplied with grain, flour, bacon, etc., at a less cost than was formerly paid for transportation alone, and the miner is supplied at rates that encourage him to prospect the country, and thus develop its treasures.

“During the last two years (1867-8), the down-freight on the Columbia has largely increased. During the month of June of this year (1868), Walla Walla Valley alone shipped 500 tons of flour to San Francisco and New York markets, retaining a surplus estimated at 20,000 barrels. To this must be added the new crop now being harvested, and variously estimated at from two to three hundred thousand bushels. Grand Ronde Valley, situated at the foot of the Blue Mountains on the east, has a large surplus, perhaps quite as much as Walla Walla. Powder River and Boise Valleys are producing large supplies. There are many other valleys in this section rich in agricultural wealth, that only await the enterprising emigrant, to offer him a luxuriant and happy home.

“From the 1st of March to the 15th of July of this year (1867), there were shipped on steamboat, from Portland to Dalles City, 12,101 head of cattle and horses, 6,283 head of sheep, and 2,594 head of hogs. There has doubtless been an equal number driven across the Cascade Mountains, dur-

ing the month of July and August, all intended for feeding, accumulating and marketing, as indicated. The whole country may be said to be mineral. Gold in paying quantities is annually taken from the banks of the Columbia river as low down as Umatilla. The bars on Snake river, for miles below Lewiston, are profitably worked by Chinamen. This extensive mineral section, embraced within the limits before named, though adding considerable amounts annually to the treasure of the world, has scarcely been prospected. The work done to develop the mineral wealth amounts to little more than surface explorations.

“The Willamette river drains the beautiful valley of that name. This valley is about two hundred miles long and from fifty to seventy-five miles wide, and sustains a population of about sixty thousand, with ample resources and room for a million. It is rich in grain-growing and grazing lands, and contains extensive deposits of iron ore. Coal and copper are also found, but as yet undeveloped.

“The principal town on the Willamette river is Portland, situated on the west bank, about twelve miles from its mouth.\* The next place of interest ascending the Willamette is Oswego, eight miles from Portland. Here is located the first iron furnace on the Pacific coast. Four miles above this place is Oregon City, situated on the east bank, just below the falls. This is a thriving little place, containing about twelve hundred inhabitants. Woolen and paper factories are the chief features of the place. Salem is about sixty-five miles by water from Oregon City, and is the capital of the State. It contains a population estimated at four thousand. Thirty-five miles further up is Albany, a prosperous town, and known as the granery of Oregon; estimated population, two thousand. The next place of importance Corvallis, is a flourishing little city of about fifteen hundred inhabitants—

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\* See description of Multnomah county.



distance from Albany fifteen miles. Eugene City, seventy-one miles above Corvallis, is the next place of importance, and is located at the head of navigation on the Willamette River; population estimated at fifteen hundred.

There are many small towns and neighborhood landings, situated at different points between the places named, all or most of which present evidences of thrift.

“The principal towns on the Columbia river are, first: Astoria, about eighteen miles from the bar; population estimated at one thousand. Next is Cathlamet, thirty miles; then Ranier, fifteen miles; then St. Helen, twenty miles; then Vancouver, twenty-four miles; then Cascades, forty-five miles. All of these places, except Astoria and Vancouver, are small villages or landings. At Cascades is the first portage on the Columbia. On the north side of the river, as before stated, is an iron railroad, six miles long. On the south side is a wooden trainway of six miles, over which passed all the freight of the upper Columbia prior to April, 1863, at which time the iron road was completed. The next place of any importance is Dalles City, fifty miles further up. This is a busy little place, containing a population of about two thousand five hundred. Here another iron railroad connects with the upper boats at Celilo. Eighty-five miles further up is Umatilla, the great landing place for Idaho and eastern Oregon. Its population is about fifteen hundred. Thirty-five miles further up is Wallula, or old Fort Walla Walla. This is the landing for Walla Walla and Grand Ronde valleys, and during the seasons of low water is the landing for goods shipped to Montana, via Pen d' Oreille Lake, and for Fort Colville and British Columbia. This place, although one of the oldest, has only a population of about two hundred. The next and only place of any note above Wallula is Lewiston, in Idaho, distant about one hundred and sixty miles. This place has a population of about one thousand,



is the head of navigation on Snake river west of the mountains, and was formerly the seat of government of Idaho Territory.”

### CLIMATE.

The climate of this State is peculiarly mild for a country in as high a latitude as this, although that portion lying east of the Cascade range, and known as eastern Oregon, has a climate similar in some respects to that of the Northwestern States of the upper Mississippi. The winters are generally of short duration in this locality—cold and dry, but not subject to the extremes known to the same latitude east of the Rocky Mountains, nor liable to those long and cold rains and sudden changes so disagreeable in those States.

The summers are generally hot and dry, but not sultry and oppressive. The nights during the warmest weather of the season are cool and refreshing, and the days are rendered delightful by a salubrious mountain air. The springs and falls are long, mild and pleasant, with occasional showers of rain, sufficient to give life and vigor to vegetation, and render productive the fertile soil.

The climate of western Oregon is even, temperate and mild, the thermometer seldom falling to 10 or rising to 80 degrees above zero, although a difference of a few degrees from this are sometimes, in extreme cases, reached. The atmosphere has a humid tendency, and probably resembles that of England more than any other portion of the world. Cattle have to be fed but a short time during the winter, and snow and frost are not frequent during any part of the year. Mr. Hill, in his essay says:

“The amount of rain which falls in this part of the State (Willamette Valley) during the rainy season has been greatly exaggerated, as will be seen by reference to the annexed tables, which exhibit more specifically the climatological peculiari-

ties of the State. (Observations taken in several other States are inserted in some of the tables, for the purpose of making comparisons. The first table is compiled chiefly from the Smithsonian Report, and the rest are from various reliable sources.)

TABLE 1—Showing comparative mean temperature.

	Astoria, Oregon.	Corvallis, Oregon.	Dalles City, E. Oregon.	Augusta, Ill.	Hazlewood, Minn.	San Diego, Cal.	Albany, New York.	Dubuque, Iowa.
Number of years of observation.....	11.5	11.6	3½	11½	2	5½	24	3 1-4
Spring temperature.....	51.16	52.19	53.00	51.34	42.33	59.97	47.61	47.36
Summer temperature.....	61.36	67.13	70.36	72.51	69.95	71.08	70.17	71.42
Autumn temperature.....	53.55	53.41	52.21	53.38	42.60	64.36	50.01	50.34
Winter temperature.....	42.43	39.27	35.59	29.80	13.06	52.29	25.83	25.88
Whole time.....	52.13	53.00	52.79	51.76	41.97	61.93	48.41	48.75

The only point in Eastern Oregon where the temperature of which is exhibited in this table is Dalles City, which, situated as it is, immediately at the base of the Cascade Mountains, does not fairly represent the temperature of the extensive valleys further east, which constitute the agricultural region of that country. The summer in most of those valleys, as well as on the table lands, is much warmer than at the Dalles.

The winter temperature, it will be observed, is much higher than that of other States in the same latitude, while that of the spring is nearly the same, and the summer not quite so high.

TABLE 2—Showing number of rainy days during winter at places named, respectively.

Month.	Astoria.			Willamette Valley.	Peoria. Ill.	
	1857-8	1858-9	1859-60	1856-7	1856-7	1857-8
November.....	21	16	19	9	9	16
December.....	25	14	15	13	10	7
January.....	17	19	19	15	4	6
February.....	9	20	17	6	10	8
Total.....	72	69	70	43	33	37

This table includes all rainy days, without reference to whether it rained all or only part of the day. It also includes all snowy days, very few of which are seen in Oregon in an ordinary winter.

From a record kept of the weather for 1868-9, by E. B. Dufur, who resides between the Willamette and Columbia rivers, six miles east of Portland, it appears that there has been but eight continuous rainy days during the months of November, December, January and February, the four rainy or winter months of the season. During the same time there were seventy-three entirely clear days, and the rest were variable, partly rainy and cloudy. Snow was seen but once during the four months, and then only a few flakes flying in the air—none to whiten the ground. Hoar frost occurred thirteen times during these months, with but four nights sufficiently cold to freeze ice the thickness of window-glass. Many of the hardiest kinds of plants kept green during the entire winter. On the 14th of February bees were seen busily at work, returning to the hive laden with pollen, and flowers were in blossom in each of the months during this season. This has been a very favorable winter, but a number of such have occurred since the settlement of Oregon.

TABLE 3—Showing the amount in inches at Astoria, Orn., and Peoria, Ill., respectively.

Month.	Astoria.			Peoria, Ill.	
	1858	1859	1860	1857	1858
January.....	8.58	10.82	13.30	0.37	1.48
February.....	4.80	12.02	6.69	5.32	1.95
March.....	6.83	21.52	5.58	3.84	3.15
April.....	3.52	2.85	5.69	1.39	6.25
May.....	2.49	3.17	5.04	2.80	10.64
June.....	1.38	2.10	1.40	2.77	5.95
July.....	0.44	0.48	1.75	1.40	5.85
August.....	3.40	1.42	0.24	5.61	3.24
September.....	3.20	9.15	2.51	2.16	2.96
October.....	4.88	5.46	6.96	2.10	3.24
November.....	8.06	7.77	.....	1.62	4.85
December.....	12.44	6.16	12.41	1.50	...
Total.....	60.73	82.95	61.23	30.88	49.56

From this table it appears that the amount of rain at

Astoria is a little less than double that at Peoria, the one in a country where the only winter known is a rainy season, and the other in a country distinguished for its cold and dry winters.

### SOIL AND PRODUCTIONS.

The soil and productions of this State have been too generally noticed in the previous description of the several counties, to require any lengthy mention in this place. Although the two great natural divisions of the State, known as Eastern and Western Oregon, are quite distinctive in their features, as far as regards soil and climate, still there are some qualities general in their character which apply equally well to both sections of country. The general adaptation of the soil and climate to produce cereals in their greatest perfection, and especially wheat appears not to be confined to any particular locality or section.

The resources of Eastern Oregon for grazing and stock raising purposes, with its millions of acres of bunch grass, possessing the most nutritious properties and fattening qualities of any pasture lands in the world, are known to be equally well adapted to the production of wheat.

Capt. R. R. Thompson, a close observer, and a gentleman well acquainted with, and well qualified to judge of the natural resources of the State, gives it as his decided opinion, that Eastern Oregon possesses a greater amount of arable land adapted to the production of the cereals. than the western portion of the State, which is now considered one of the best grain growing districts, in proportion to its extent of territory, of any locality in the United States. Both sections appear to be equally well adapted to the production of fruit, but roots and vegetables, although easily raised and produced in abundance in the eastern, appear to grow to greater perfection in the western portion of the State.

J. Ross Brown, in his late report on the mineral resources of the States and Territories west of the Rock Mountains, speaking of Oregon, says: "Oregon is peculiarly an agricultural and fruit growing State, though by no means deficient in valuable mineral resources. Possessing a climate of unrivaled salubrity, abounding in vast tracts of rich arable lands, heavily timbered throughout its mountain ranges, watered by innumerable springs and streams, and subject to none of the drawbacks arising from the chilling winds, and seasons of aridity, which prevails further south, it is justly considered the most favorite region of the Pacific slope, as a home for an agricultural, fruit growing and manufacturing population. As yet it is but thinly settled, a fact owing in part to the injudicious system pursued under the donation act of 1852, by which large tracts of land (320 acres to single settlers, 640 to married couples), were held by persons who were unable to cultivate them, and in part to the insufficiency of communicating with the markets of the world. These drawbacks however will soon be remedied by establishment of Railroads, the increase of steam navigation, and the consequent accession of population. The wonderful richness of the valleys, the extraordinary inducements to settlement by families, the beauty of the scenery, and healthfulness of the climate, must soon attract large immigrations.

The writer has traveled this State from the Columbia River to the southern boundary, and can safely assert that there is no equal extent of the country on the Pacific slope abounding in such a variety of attractions to those who seek pleasant homes. The Willamette, the Umpqua, Rogue River, and many others, are regions unrivaled for farming and stock raising."

### HEALTH.

This important subject, although spoken of particularly in the report on each of the counties, has been so ably and



truthfully described by W. Lair Hill, we deem it proper to quote entire in this place, "It would seem invidious to discriminate in favor of any portion of the State of Oregon in respect to salubrity. Everything that nature could do to render a country perfectly healthy has been done for this State. The mountain air, not less than the mountain water, has a vivifying influence, and the gentle breezes of summer, coming fresh from the sea, are a pleasant and effectual preventive against all the violent diseases ordinarily to be feared in dry and sultry regions.

The climate of Oregon is thought to be unfavorable to the health of persons who are predisposed to pulmonary affections. This is probably true. Notwithstanding this general opinion, however, it is found that fewer persons die here of consumption, in proportion to the population, than in any one of the New England States. And it is certainly beyond question, that in every other respect there is no other State in the Union, worthy to be compared with this for salubrity of climate.

Persons are frequently met with here who had been unable to perform any labor for years before leaving the East on account of ill health, but have become rugged and strong in this country, and are now regularly engaged in their callings, without any physical inconvenience whatever."

### MINERAL RESOURCES.

Although Oregon is rich in numerous gold and silver quartz lodes, with extensive placer mines in many parts of the State, among which are those at Mormon basin, Willow Creek, Shasta, Earton, Auburn, John Day's, and numerous other mining districts located east of the Cascade Mountains, and annually adding its millions to the wealth of the nation, together with the old permanent mining districts of Jackson and Josephine counties, too extensively known and celebrated



for their permanent wealth to require special notice in this place. To a State like this, so peculiarly adapted to agricultural, manufacturing and commercial pursuits, the extensive beds of coal and iron known to exist in many localities, are destined to be of no secondary importance in adding to the permanent wealth of this State.

The Oregon iron works, located at Oswego, about eight miles above Portland, on the Willamette river, and now turning out daily from six to eight tons of a superior article of soft, fine-grained iron, pronounced by the best of judges as "fit to be worked into castings for machinery as run off from the furnace," are but the initiatory steps necessary to procure the value of those extensive beds of ore which underlie a large tract of country between the Columbia and Willamette rivers, extending from St. Helens to Oswego, then crossing the Willamette and continuing in the same direction until it strikes the Cascade range, having been traced in a well defined lead a distance of over fifty miles, and establishing the fact that this most intrinsically valuable of all minerals is inexhaustible in this State.

The numerous beds of coal discovered within the past few years, in Columbia, Clatsop, Coos, Tillamook, Benton, Jackson, Douglas and Clackamas counties, together with the croppings of lignite in numerous other localities, show that this great resource of wealth is liberally distributed throughout the State in inexhaustible supplies. Contiguous to the coal mines on Butte Creek, in Clackamas county, which were lately discovered and are now being prospected by Frank Cooper, Esq., are found iron ore in abundance and of excellent quality, and extensive quarries of limestone, apparently composed of pressed shell. This stone has been thoroughly tested, and there is now being manufactured from it a superior article of lime and cement, pronounced by good judges to be equal to any cement in the United States. These

iron, cement and coal mines are located in a district abundantly supplied with water and timber, on an easy grade to and fifteen miles from the Willamette river, and only require capital associated with the energy of their enterprising proprietor to render them one of the best paying enterprises, and the locality one of the most important, on the Pacific coast.

### FISHERIES.

The fisheries of Oregon are not secondary in importance, in the numerous natural resources of wealth placed within the reach of industry in this State. The salmon fisheries along the Columbia, which but a short time ago were worked by Indians and half-breeds, producing only a few barrels of salmon, which were mostly bartered for tobacco and whisky, and a few necessary supplies, have from their extent and superior quality attracted the attention of capital and business men. We are informed by J. West, Esq., a partner in one of the extensive canning establishments in this business, that the revenue stamps alone for three companies, the present year, will amount to \$10,000, and the gross receipts of the salmon catch this season will not fall short of \$276,000. The profits to be derived to this locality from the cod and halibut fisheries in the northern Pacific cannot be overestimated; and making Oregon the great center of this business, the remarks of Charles Forbes, Esq., in his work on the "Resources of Vancouver Island," page 62, would be far more applicable to the State of Oregon:

Oregon, "situated but a few days' sail from the best fishing grounds, must become the main depot of business. Fish cannot be properly dried and cured either in Russian America or California, the character of the former being changeable and too damp, and the latter too hot and dry. With no rivalry from the East or elsewhere, with abundant fish, unfrequent storms during the fishing season, the best climate to

procure fish, the best harbors, salt by the cargo at a comparatively low price, and all the requisite provisions for an outfit, it is scarcely possible to overrate the advantages of this region, as the center of the great fishery of the northern Pacific."

### HARBORS.

Oregon has a number of good harbors, the most important of which is that at the mouth of the Columbia river. By a recent Government survey, it has been demonstrated that the supposed danger of crossing the Columbia river bar is more in the imagination than in any actual obstruction that exists, and that a good tug at the mouth of the river would render the entrance as safe as at the Golden Gate, or the entrance to the far-famed Straits of Fuca.

The other harbors are the Yaquina, the Umpqua, Port Orford, Coquille and Tillamook. The most of these are safe, with a good entrance for vessels of light draught, and some are capable of receiving large ocean steamers. These harbors require only the development of the surrounding country to render them places of commercial importance to the State.

### LUMBER.

It would be almost superfluous to try to add anything to what has already been said in the description of the several counties relative to the natural resources of this branch of industry in Oregon. The pineries of northern Wisconsin and Michigan seem expressly provided to supply the great valley of the Mississippi. The immense forests of New Brunswick and Maine are equally important in adding wealth to that portion of the Atlantic coast; while the numerous water-powers, the vast forests of excellent timber, much of which is easy of access from tide-water, require only capital and men to render Oregon equal, if not superior, to either of these localities for its lumbering wealth.

## MANUFACTURES.

One of the most prominent features of Oregon is the fact that, with her agricultural and mineral resources, she possesses all those natural qualifications necessary to become an extensive manufacturing State. Combining unusual fertility of soil with immense grazing and pasture lands for the production of wool, inexhaustible beds of iron and coal, with timber and water-power in almost all parts of the State, that for ease of application, quantity of power and accessibility are not surpassed in the whole world, the immense wealth to be derived from this branch of industry in Oregon is merely a question of time.

## TITLES TO REAL ESTATE.

The certainty of obtaining good titles to real estate in Oregon is in marked contrast to the difficulty of so doing in California, where lands were formerly held under extensive and ill-defined grants from the Government of Mexico. The lands of Oregon are yet in possession of the U. S. Government, or in the State Government by grant of the United States, or else in the hands of first settlers, who hold by patent from the United States under the donation law, which gave grants of 320 to 640 acres to the early settlers of the country, or have since been taken under the pre-emption and homestead laws. There is yet comparatively little of the land encumbered with mortgages, so that, with ordinary care, there need be no risk of "buying a law suit" when land is purchased, or to commence the process of getting a farm by commencing a law suit against the title of the man you intend to purchase from—"bucking the title," as it is called in California. Such a process is unknown in Oregon, because unnecessary.

## TRADE AND COMMERCE.

The commerce in this State being in a great degree con-

fined to a home trade with San Francisco, New York and other domestic ports, and vessels and ocean steamers sailing under a coaster's license and not being liable to clear at the custom-house, it has been impossible to obtain the exact imports and exports of this State; but this branch of business is steadily on the increase, and is known to be quite large, for new country, as thinly settled as this.

The present condition of commerce is indicated by the following statement of our foreign and coasting trade during the year ending June 30th, 1869, furnished the press of the State by the Collector of Customs for the District of Oregon:

“Coasting trade—departures, 258 vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 205,401 tons. Foreign trade in American vessels—departures, 58; tonnage, 21,213 tons. Foreign trade in foreign vessels—departures, 2; tonnage, 1,215 tons. Total departures, 318; total tonnage, 127,859 tons. Imports from foreign ports on which duties were paid, 321,826. Exports to foreign ports during the same time, \$495,096. It will thus be seen that there is a balance in our favor of \$173,270, exports over imports. Of the exports to American ports there is no record, nor of the imports from American ports. A very considerable part of our breadstuffs, sent to San Francisco, have gone thence to foreign ports.”

During the first half of this year there was shipped from Portland to San Francisco—flour, 50 lb. sacks, 226,184; wheat, sacks, 29,067; oats, sacks, 49,300; barley, sacks, 240; salmon, bbls. 951, hf-bbls. 337, cs. 8,454, pkgs. 303; bacon, pkgs. 2,851; beef, bbls. 443; butter, pkgs. 341; cheese, pkgs. 12; hams, pkgs. 286; lard, pkgs. 1,500; pork, bbls. 835; dried apples, pkgs, 3,197; pig iron, tons, 500.

The above does not represent all the trade of Oregon. Crescent City, Cal., is the commercial point for Josephine county and Rogue River Valley, and the coal and lumber sent from Coos Bay, and wool and other freight from the



Umpqua valley, would swell the amount sent southward. There is a very considerable trade northward to British Columbia and Alaska, and the trade in meats with the former place is mainly by driving the beef and mutton on foot across Washington Territory. The trade with the States California and Nevada, and with Idaho and Washington Territories, is very considerable.

California has this year received from Oregon, according to the careful estimates of men engaged collecting the different kinds of stock—horses, 800 head, valued at an average of \$400 a span; cattle, 5,000 head, at a valuation of \$15 per head; sheep, 40,000, at \$1.50 per head, coin.

#### OREGON NEWSPAPERS.

Oregonian, daily and weekly, Portland; Herald, daily and weekly, Portland; Commercial, daily, Portland; Pacific Christian Advocate, weekly, Portland; Deutsche Zeitung, Portland; Mountaineer, weekly, Dalles City; Sentinel, weekly, La Grande; Sentinel, weekly, Jacksonville. News, weekly, Jacksonville; Ensign, weekly, Roseburg; Guard, weekly, Eugene City; State Journal, weekly, Eugene City; Gazette, weekly, Corvallis; Times, weekly, Dallas; Register, weekly, Albany; State Rights Democrat, weekly, Albany; Courier, weekly, McMinnville; Enterprise, weekly, Oregon City; American Unionist, daily and weekly, Salem; Democratic Press, weekly, Salem; Willamette Farmer, weekly, Salem.

#### MARKETS.

The following are the Portland wholesale and jobbing prices, July 9, 1869: *Agricultural Implements*—Combined Reapers and Mowers, \$175a250; Mowers, \$110a150; Headers, latest style, \$325a350, last year's style, \$250a275; Threshers, Pitt's "Challenger," \$550a800; Ball's "Tornado," \$650a800; Horse Powers, \$200a250; Sulky Rakes, \$40a50; Revolving Rakes, \$8a10; Horse Forks, \$12 50a14; Seythes



and Snaths, \$22 50 per dozen; 3-tined Forks, \$10 50a12 per dozen; Hay Rakes, \$6 50a8; Plows, \$13 50a\$20. *Bacon*—Sides 12c.; hams 14a14½c.; Cross' sngar-cured do 25c.; Shoulders 8a8½c. *Butter*—Oregon solid, 27c. per lb.; brine 30a35; fresh rolls, 20a25. *Brooms*—Oregon made, \$4a6 75 per dozen. *Coffee*—20a30c. per lb. *Dried Fruit*—Oregon Apples 7a8c.; California Peaches, 10a11c. per lb. *Flour*—\$4 50a5. *Iron*—Round Bar,  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 2 inch, 5c.; Small Bar, 6½a10c.; Rod, 11c. *Lard*—In cans, 17c.; bulk, 15c. *Sugar* Sandwich Island, 9a12½c.; Crushed, 16¾a17. *Syrup*—80a95c. per gallon. *Soap*—7½a8½; Castile 18c. per lb. *Salt*—\$37 50a40 per ton. *Salmon*—In half barrels, new, \$6; in barrels, new, \$10.

OREGON WOOLEN GOODS.—*Blankets*, Oregon gray, No. 1, \$9 50; No. 2, \$6 50; No. 3 do. \$4 25; do. white, No. 1 extra, \$12; No. 1, \$8 50; do. No. 2, \$7; No. 2, blue, \$7 75; No. 2, green, \$7 75; Vienna, No. 1, \$11; No. 2, \$8; 8-4 White Flannel, \$1 10a1 25; 4-4 White do. 75c.; 3-4 White do. 37½a45c.; Flannels, plain assorted colors, 40a45c.; Fancy twilled shirting do. 50a55c.; gray mixed shirting, 40a50; Hard Times, 90c.; Gray Doeskin, \$1; Fancy do. \$1.10; drab mixed Beaver 95c.; Fancy Cassimeres \$1a1 40; tweeds \$75a85c.; yarns \$1a1 25.

COTTON GOODS.—*Sheetings*—Standard 14½a15½c.; seconds 14½c.; light 10a11c.; Standard drills 16½c. *Shirting*—Bleached undressed 16a22c.; bleached,  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $\frac{7}{8}$ , 10a12½c. *Denims*—15a21c.; hickory stripes 15a25c. *Prints*—Fancy 11c.; Merrimac 12c.; Delaines 18c. *Ticking*—4 qr. 25a37c.; 30-inch 18a35c.; Linsey, 24a33c., 10¼ bleach 50; Oakland heavy sheeting 28c; per yard.; 30-inch sheeting 12½a13½c. per yard.

The above are all coin prices. As a rule, the currency prices of the lighter kinds of goods in the Atlantic market are about the prices that rule here in coin. For heavy and

bulky goods, like agricultural machinery, our coin prices rule above the currency prices east.

### EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS.

One of the first and most noticeable features in the organization of society in this State is the manifest effort that has been made by its early settlers to place the means of religious and literary instruction within the reach of all classes of society. The immediate cause of this more than common effort is undoubtedly traceable to the fact that prominent among the first immigrants to this State were a large number of missionaries, ministers and religious teachers, who have ever manifested a commendable zeal in giving tone to society, by establishing schools and seminaries of learning, and fostering the means for obtaining an education in all parts of the State.

The fact that Oregon is provided with a general and efficient system of common school instruction has been stated too frequently in the description of the several counties to require a recapitulation; and it seems almost equally unnecessary to again refer to the numerous excellent high schools, academies and colleges located in almost all the noted towns, cities and counties within the State. An effort to distinguish between the merits of these institutions, or speak of the efficiency of the different corps of professors and teachers employed, would be talking on a subject of which we are not qualified to judge; but without detracting from the merits of any of these institutions, it is but just to say that the Willamette University, at Salem, is an honor to its founders and would be a credit to any State.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

In presenting this work to the public, and especially to those in the Eastern States seeking information relative to the resources of this part of the Pacific coast, the Committee

appointed by the State Agricultural Society have labored to obtain such facts and information as came from the most reliable sources, and not to overdraw or claim for this State advantages it does not possess. In fact, the limited means and disadvantages the Committee have labored under to obtain facts and figures, in so thinly a settled country as this, has made the work come far short of conveying an adequate idea of the vast wealth of soil, climate, pasture lands, mineral, manufacturing and commercial advantages this State really possesses.

The Oregon State Agricultural Society, composed of farmers and mechanics coming from all parts of the United States, have taken this means to say to the landless poor, and to the operatives in the over-crowded towns and cities of the older States, that labor in Oregon is capital, and industry a mine of wealth. The broad prairies and fertile valleys of Oregon will produce all the necessities of life in abundance. But grain does not grow, nor crops thrive in this State without the labor of the husbandman applied to the cultivation of the soil. These farm lands can be obtained at almost any price ranging from \$1.25 to \$50.00 per acre; but remember, that land at Government price, although fertile, well watered, wooded, and in a mild climate, does not generally lay in the midst of large towns and old settlements, where roads, fences, bridges and school-houses are already built; but a few years of toil will bring all these surroundings in due time, and repay the industrious settler with an independent home. The climate is mild and agreeable, and the weather delightful most of the year; but let those who contemplate coming to this State remember that the sun does not always shine in Oregon, nor the breezes fan lightly, for the great laws of nature, that require heat and cold, rain and sunshine, for the favorable development of vegetation in all parts of the world, are equally applicable to this locality. And although long,

drizzly rains frequently occur here in the winter and spring, Oregon is not subject to drouth and the continuous scorching rays of the sun, which produce those arid wastes in some parts of California, Arizona and many other localities. Neither do those hot, sultry seasons occur here to which a more southern latitude is exposed, and which proves so enervating to both body and mind. Nor do those terrific thunder storms and desolating tornados, so frequent in the Mississippi Valley, prevail in this locality. Neither are there blinding snows and biting frosts, which shut out vegetation and chill the life-blood of man and beast for nearly half the time during the year in the Middle and New England States, known here; but the cool, invigorating, healthful air of Oregon is a happy medium between the extremes of heat and cold. And for soil, climate, and all those requisites that tend to render any community intelligent, independent and permanently blessed, we sincerely believe Oregon will compare favorably with any other part of the world.

Per order of Committee.

A. J. DUFUR,  
Chairman.









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